Print-and-Play: US Patent #1

Release Year: 2001 Stock Code: CAG 034 Game Type: Board Game Designer: James Ernest

Players: 3 to 6 Playing Time: 90 Minutes

Components: Boards, Cards, Rules

You Need: One pawn and one counter for each player, three 6-sided dice, and money

You're all scientists who have invented time travel, each from a different point in history. But it really doesn't matter when you started, because now you're all racing to the day the patent office opens, July 30, 1790, to secure US Patent #1.

The concept of racing time machines to the patent office had been kicking around Cheapass Games for several years, and James Ernest actually developed three other core mechanics for this game (all of which are basically lost, though there are still some test cards). He finally settled on this simple build-it-and-patent-it racing game, in which the only "time travel mechanic" is the fellow next door to the Patent Office, who makes money fixing broken time machines.

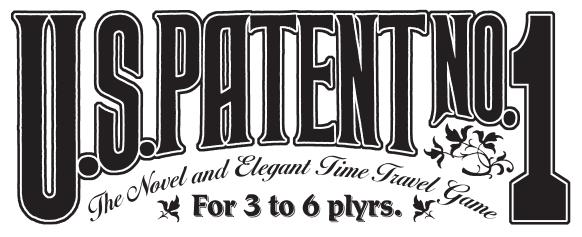
US Patent #1 is a gorgeous neo-Victorian game with some serious mechanical issues that we hope one day to address. In the meantime, this original edition of the game is yours to print, play, and enjoy!

Printing Instructions:

The Us Patent #1 2019 Print and Play contains the following files:

- USPatentBoards: This is a nine-page file containing the nine board sections as they were originally produced. The game is a single large board, so you could also combine these into a single page and keep them together.
- USPatentCards: This is a 6-page file with 9-up cards, missing six on the last page, for a total of 48 cards. The card backs are optional.
- USPatentMachines: This file contains eight large Time Machine cards on two pages. There are no backs.
- USPatentBox: This is the original packaging art for the game, front and back.
- USPatentRules: This is a single 8.5 x 11 double-sided page, designed to fold in half.

In addition, you will need one pawn and one counter for each player, three 6-sided dice, and money.



You Need: One pawn and one counter for each player, three 6-sided dice, and money.

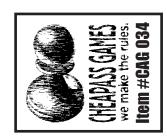
Eureka! You've just invented time travel.

But the awful truth is that you're not alone.

In fact, scientists have been inventing time travel since 1814.

But if you have a time machine, it really doesn't matter who invented it first. All that matters is who gets to the Patent Office first.

And by "first" we mean on opening day. Because nothing suits a time machine like U.S. Patent Number 1.



About Cheapass Games:

We here at Cheapass Games are aware of two basic facts about board games: they cost too much, and they are at some level all the same

duction cost, and that cost gets handed to you. If you ignore the clever shapes they come in, the cheap little plastic pawns are an interchangeable part of most of the board games in your house. So are the dice, the money, the counters, the pencils, and just about every other random spare part. These generic bits and pieces can account for as much as 75% of a game's pro-

part of every "new" game. Yet most companies insist on selling you the whole package every time; it's a little like bundling a can opener with a can of beans If you had your choice, you'd probably invest a little bit of money in one good set of gaming paraphemalia instead of twenty crappy ones, and then just buy the new

Cheapass Games come packaged with the bare essentials: boards, cards, and rulebooks. If you need anything else we'll tell you. And it's probably something you can scrounge from a game you already own, or buy at a hobby store. Heck, if you need to, you can even buy the parts from us

And once you've assembled your collection of generic game pieces, you can use them for every new **Cheapass Game**. We've standardized our designs so your gaming toolbox will last

To learn more about **Cheapass Games**, ask your local game retailer.

Or visit our double secret website at: **www.cheapass.com**



U.S. Patent Number 1

fast. You actually have to go back in time, to the day the Patent Office opened! the Patent Office to prove who invented it first. Because you have a time machine, it's not enough to get to the Patent Office **U.S. Patent Number 1** is a racing game. Every player is a scientist who has invented time travel, and now everyone is racing to

all four upgrades qualifies to earn the patent, and you have a limited supply of money and power to spend You can invent these things on your own, you can buy them, or you can steal them from the other players. Only a machine with During this race you will upgrade your machine with some gadgets, including a power plant, a chassis, a weapon, and a shield.

U.S. Patent Number 1 was designed by James Ernest and Falko Goettsch, and it's the coolest board game of its time!

Glossary:

Some Upgrades give you different Actions and abilities than those described in the rules. Here are some definitions to help make these cards clear.

Action: Any card that begins with "Action:" is describing an Action you can take in step 3 of your turn. These Actions are legal anywhere on the board.

Continuous Effect: Continuous Effects are always active, and do not require an Action step to use.

Basic Attack: This is the basic attack as described in the rulebook. The attacker must be on the same space as the defender. The attacker rolls two dice and adds his Weapon, the defender rolls one die and adds her Shield. If the attack is **higher** than the defense, the attacker may choose and disable one Upgrade on the defender. If the attack is higher by 5 or more, the attacker may choose and **destroy** one Upgrade on the defender. (If the defense is greater than or equal to the attack, there is no effect.)

Some Weapons and Shields have continuous effects that change the rules of basic attacks.

Ranged Attack: All special Attacks are called ranged attacks, to distinguish them from the basic attack. They are "ranged" because they can affect players at a distance. Some Shields explicitly protect you from ranged attacks, or all attacks. Others don't.

Counterattack: Some Shields allow you to counterattack, which means you can make an immediate basic attack on your assailant after he makes a direct (basic) attack.

Note that this counterattack happens after the first attack is resolved, so if your attacker disables your Weapon you cannot use it in the counterattack. However, if he disables the Shield that allowed the counterattack, the counterattack is still legal.

All the rules that apply to basic attacks apply to counterattacks, with one exception: You can not make a counter-counterattack.

Steal: To "steal" an Upgrade means to take it from another player and install it on your Time Machine. If you steal an Upgrade you may also simply throw it away, in which case it goes into the Junkyard as if it was destroyed.

In Your Time / In Any Time Ahead of You:

Each board represents a different period in history, and any players on the same board with you are considered to be "in your time." If a weapon lets you shoot at another player "ahead of you," you can target any player in a time period after yours, but not in your own.

Power Plant / Chassis Synergy: Every Power Plant produces an extra 6 points of power when coupled with the Chassis of the same rank. The power requirements cancel out, leaving you with a surplus of 11 points (that's the extra 6 points plus your original 5) to spend on your Weapon and Shield. The Power Plant produces the surplus energy only when both it and the corresponding Chassis are installed and functional.

One more thing: You will notice that the language on some Shields technically contradicts the language on some Weapons. In all cases, the Shield takes precedence over the Weapon.

For Multiple Players: This game works well for up to six players, but can be a little long with seven or eight. If you would like to speed up the game for larger groups, or include as many as eight players in the game, you can loosen the victory requirements. To win in the "easier" game you need only three functioning Upgrades to win, and everyone starts with an extra \$4 in Gold.

That's all! Backward, scientists!

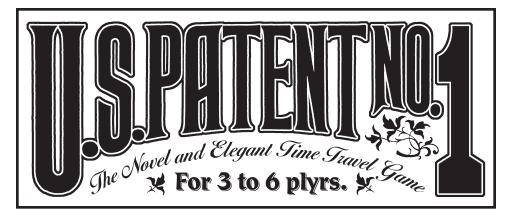
U.S. Patent Number One

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U.S. Patent Number One was deigned by James Ernest and Falko Goettsch, with help from Cheapass Games Guinea Pigs Elizabeth Marshall, Carol Monahan, Julie Haehn, Cathy Saxton, Owen Jungemann, Joshua Howard, Joyce Godecke, and more, as well as free range Guinea Pigs Nick Sauer, Mark Globus, Adam Fischer, and Brian Akers.

All artwork is drawn from the whirling vortex of the public domain with the exception of all typesetting and logo work, which was meticulously rendered by James Ernest in his copious free time and is @2001 James Ernest and Cheapass Games.

U.S. Patent Number One went through four complete rewrites before emerging in its current form, so be sure to look for three slightly inferior time travel games coming soon from Cheapass Games.



Two days ago you invented time travel.

You were pretty jazzed.

But the next day you learned that about a dozen other scientists had invented it before you. Or after you. It doesn't really matter.

So now you've decided to do the only thing you can think of, race the other guys to the Patent Office. Not just in your time, but on the first day it opened, July 30, 1790.

History will show that whoever reached the Patent Office first deserves to be the one true inventor of time travel.

It all makes sense in a not-really-making-anysense kind of way.



Cheapass Games Fun Fact: The first U.S. Patent was actually awarded to Samuel Hopkins on July 30, 1790, for his improved method for making potash. **Included With This Game:** This box includes nine **game boards**, 48 **Upgrade cards**, and eight **Time Machine** cards.

Arranging the game boards is easy; they fit into a square, with board $\boldsymbol{0}$ in the middle. The rest should be obvious.

You Need: Approximately \$20 in **cash** or **chips** per player; a **pawn** and a **counter** for each player; and at least three 6-sided **dice**.

To Begin: Each player takes a random Time Machine card. This card tells you where to start your pawn, and how much Gold you start with.

(Time travelers use Gold for all their cash transactions because it has a more reliable constant value over time. And because it helps them avoid the embarrassment of spending money that hasn't been printed yet.)

Play begins with the earliest Time Machine, and proceeds to the left.

How Time Machines Work: A Time Machine card serves as an anchor point for four types of Upgrade cards: Weapons, Shields, Chassis, and Power Plants.

Your **Weapon** helps you attack other players. Your **Shield** protects you from attacks. Your **Chassis** helps you move faster, and your **Power Plant** generates power for your other Upgrades.

Every Upgrade has a single number, its "rank," which represents several things. Rank is the value of the Upgrade in **combat** (for Weapons and Shields), the **power** that the Upgrade draws (or provides, in the case of Power Plants), and the price in **Gold** to buy the Upgrade from a Market. It is also the trade-in value of the Upgrade, should you choose to patent it.

When you install an Upgrade, you place it face up over the appropriate corner of your Time Machine. If you had an Upgrade in that position already, you must discard the old one, putting it face up in the Junkyard.

Your Time Machine generates 5 points of power by itself, and your Power Plant provides additional power equal to its rank.

With the exception of Power Plants, every Upgrade **draws** power in an amount equal to its rank. You can not keep a set of Upgrades working if they draw more power than your Machine can produce. Whenever you are underpowered, you must disable Upgrades until you are back within your capacity. "Disabling" Upgrades means leaving them attached to your Time Machine, but turning them face down.

A disabled Upgrade ceases to function, but it also draws no power. If your Power Plant becomes disabled it no longer generates power, so you may be forced to disable other Upgrades as a result.

Though they are face down, disabled Upgrades are still public knowledge. In other words, if a player asks you what your disabled Upgrades are, you have to tell her.

You can always install an Upgrade, even if you cannot meet its power requirements. In this case, you can disable other Upgrades to make power available for the new one, or you can install the new Upgrade as disabled. Note: When you take an Upgrade from the Junkyard, it always installs as disabled.

Once an Upgrade is disabled, you cannot freely turn it back on. You must either **repair** the Upgrade (some Shields let you do this), or you must take your machine to the **Time Travel Mechanic**, where repairing all your Upgrades costs one Gold. *Note: Mangold's Robot can repair itself even if disabled, and is an exception to this rule.*

On Every Turn:

There are three steps to every turn: **Research**, **Move**, and **Act**. If you have previously taken a number at the Patent Office, there is also a fourth step, decrementing your number by one. The decrement happens first.

Step 0, Decrement your Number: If you have taken a number at the Patent Office, you will show that number by placing a counter over the corresponding number on your Time Machine.

When you have a number, the first step of your turn is to decrease that number by one. If the counter is on "!" then your number will be called on this turn.

Step 1, Research: Take the top card of the deck, look at it, and then place it on the board. The card will tell you which time period it belongs in, but you can decide whether to place the card in the **Lab** or the **Market** in that time period.

Cards played in the **Lab** go face down, sticking off the edge of the board, and will be free to whoever picks them up. Cards played in the **Market** go face up, but will cost money to whoever takes them. How you place each card will depend on your strategy.

Note: Once the deck empties you will skip the Research step. This moment represents the point at which everything that can be invented has been invented, which by some accounts happened in real life in about 1904.

Step 2, Move: You roll one 6-sided die to move. (Any Chassis you install will modify this basic move.) You move from space to space in any direction around the board.

You can use your full move, use only part of it, or you can stay where you are.

Step 3, Act: Last, you can perform one **Action** that's appropriate where you are standing, or that's granted by one of your Upgrades. Below is a list of locations and the basic Actions you can take there. Other Actions are described on the Upgrades that allow them.

Anywhere: Research Again. You can repeat the Research step of your turn as your Action.

Anywhere: Move Again. You can repeat the Move step of your turn as your Action.

Anywhere: Earn a Dollar. You can earn one dollar in Gold from the Bank.

Note: This represents taking a day off to use your specialized knowledge of history to cheat the world out of some of its hard-earned money.

Any Market: Buy one Upgrade from that Market. Cards in the Markets are face up and always public knowledge.

When you install a card from the Market, you must pay its dollar cost to the Bank. The dollar cost of any Upgrade is equal to its rank.

Any Lab: Invent one Upgrade from that Lab. If you decide that you want to "invent" (actually, to steal) a card from the Lab where you are standing, you can look at the cards in that Lab. If you wish, you may then install one of them. Installing a card from a

Lab costs no money.

Any Library: Do Research. When you do research, you are studying the past. This means you can look at the contents of **every Lab previous** to the time period you are in.

You cannot look at the Labs in the future, or even at the Lab in the same time period, which is why there is no Library on Board 1.

(Note: if you are taking a Research step, it will take a while. You can let the next player go ahead while you are looking, just don't look at any card she plays in a Lab.)

Junkyard: Install an Upgrade from the Junkyard. You can install cards from the Junkyard at no cost in Gold, but they are always disabled when you install them.

Like the Markets, the contents of the Junkyard are always face up and public.

Time Travel Mechanic: Repair your Time Machine. With all these time travelers racing to the Patent Office, it was only a matter of time before someone opened up a repair shop. Actually, since he's a time traveler himself, it was instantaneous

At the Time Travel Mechanic you can repair all your disabled Upgrades for a flat cost of one dollar. Obviously, if your Power Plant can't handle all your Upgrades, you will then have to disable Upgrades until you are back within your power limit.

On A Space with Another Player: Attack. If you are on the same space as another player you can make a "basic attack." This attack is called a "basic" attack to distinguish it from the "ranged" attacks granted by some weapons. Those attacks are described on the cards that allow them.

In a basic attack, the attacker rolls two dice and adds the value of his Weapon. The defender rolls one

die and adds the value of her Shield.

If the attack roll is greater than the defense, the attacker may choose and **disable** one of his opponent's upgrades.

If the attack roll is greater by a margin of 5 points or more, the attacker may choose and **destroy** one of the defender's upgrades. The destroyed Upgrade goes into the Junkyard, face up.

Patent Office: You can do three things at the Patent Office: Register a Patent, Take a Number, and Win the Game.

Registering a Patent: You can trade any working Upgrade from your Time Machine for its value (its rank) in Gold. For example, selling a 7 Shield would net you 7 Gold from the Bank.

Put the Upgrade you have patented back into the Market of its time period, face up.

Taking a Number: Before you can patent your Time Machine you must take a number. (Yes, this is true even though you are going to get Patent #1.)

To take a number, roll one 6-sided die and place a counter over the corresponding number on your Time Machine.

Your "number" represents the number of turns that will pass before you can win. Note: It is legal to take a new number while you are holding one. If you are holding a high number, it may be more efficient to roll a new number on your next turn, rather than waiting it out. But if you roll even higher than the number you hold, you're still stuck with the new number.

At the beginning of every turn, you will decrement your number by one. When your number reaches zero ("!") you must finish that turn in the Patent Office to win. If you don't, you will lose your place in line and have to take a new number.

Winning: On the turn when your number is called, you must go to the Patent Office with all four Upgrades installed and functional. When you do this, you win. Congratulations, you have officially invented Time Travel, and earned U.S. Patent Number One.

Strategy Tips: You do not have to wait until you have a complete Time Machine before you take a number. Nor do you have to hang around the Patent Office while you are waiting for your number to be called.

PESEARCH 1812 LABORATOR







Items for sale at the Market cost their point value in Gold.







PESEARCH 2837 WILLIAM CONTROLLABORATORY







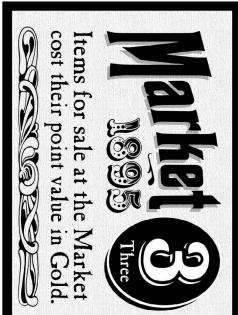
Market 2 Two

Items for sale at the Market cost their point value in Gold.



























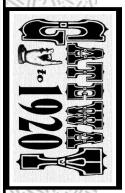


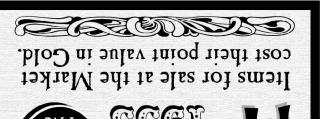














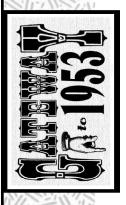
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cost their point value in Gold.

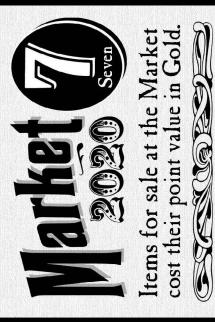














DESEARCH 2168 WILLIAM TO THE SEARCH OF THE S





Market 8 2168 Eight

Items for sale at the Market cost their point value in Gold.









are free, but install as disabled.

1790







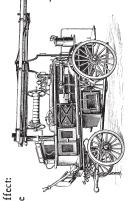






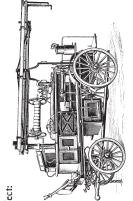
9 Grossberg's Narrow Fire-Wagon Starts in Time 2, 1837

Continuous Effect: You roll 2 dice to move.



hassis

Power





movement roll.

Action: You may disable this Upgrade to repair all your other Upgrades.

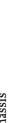




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Continuous Effect: Add +3 to your

Chassis





Benson's "Long Shot" Revolver

Starts in Time 4, 1920

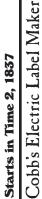


Target any Upgrade belonging you, and roll I die. You disable your target on a roll of 6.

to a player in any time ahead of

Action, Ranged Attack:

conjunction with Chassis 5. Yields +6 Power in



Weapon





Shield

Continuous Effect: attacked, you may counterattack Whenever you are directly whether or not the attack misses.

Starts in Time 7, 2020

Sumatran Coffee

Starts in Time 6, 1977

Yields +6 Power in



4



"Steely" Brand Draw Knife

Starts in Time 1, 1814

attack whether or not the Whenever you are directly Continuous Effect: attack misses. attacked, you may counter-



Dodd's Plasma Reflex Housing

Target any Upgrade belonging to a player in your time, Action, Ranged Attack: and roll I die. You steal your target on a roll of 6.



Weapon

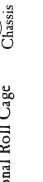


Shield Continuous Effect:

can only disable them.

Starts in Time 3, 1895 Wrigley's Personal Roll Cage





Power

Magnetic "Lobster Claw"

Starts in Time 1, 1814

4

Continuous Effect:

If you destroy an Upgrade in an

attack, you may steal it instead.

Frey's Continental Scooter Starts in Time 3, 1837





Any player making a Ranged Attack on you Continuous Effect: must roll twice and take the lowest roll.

Shield



Personal Analog Assistant



16

Flathead Pipe Claw Hammer Axe Starts in Time 5, 1895



one die. On a roll of 6, you Continuous Effect: If you disable or destroy an Upgrade in an attack, roll may steal it instead.



Shield

Attack Monkey Wrench

Starts in Time 1, 1814

Weapon

The Marx-Henderson Flywheel

Weapon

Bozlee's Ornamental Screw

Starts in Time 1, 1814

Starts in Time 8, 2168

conjunction with Chassis 7.

Yields +6 Power in



Continuous Effect:



ire at a -2 to hit you. Marshall's Invisibility Field Starts in Time 5, 1953



Target any Upgrade belonging

to a player in any time ahead of you, and roll I die. You destroy

Action, Ranged Attack:

your target on a roll of 5 or 6.

All Ranged Attacks





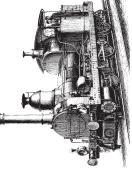
Weapon

Weapon

Monahan's Steam Locomotive

Starts in Time 4, 1920

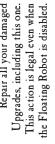
Continuous Effect: Add +5 to your movement roll.

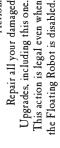


Chassis

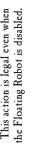
Power

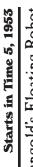












Foglio's Racing Dirigible

Shield

Mangold's Floating Robot





Power

Miller's Grappling Crank

Starts in Time 2, 1837



Target any Upgrade belonging you, and roll I die. You steal your target on a roll of 5 or 6.

to a player in any time ahead of

Action, Ranged Attack:

Yields +6 Power in conjunction with Chassis 8.

Starts in Time 5, 1953





Fuznell's Serial Cooling Fans



Shield

Starts in Time 7, 2020

Continuous Effect: Ranged Attacks can not hit you.



Weapon

Starts in Time 2, 1837

Hand-Powered "Monster" Claw

Skywater's Birch-Bark Canoe

Starts in Time 2, 1837

Continuous Effect: Add +1 to your

movement roll.

Selinker's Deuterium Forge

Starts in Time 6, 1977

conjunction with Chassis 9. Yields +6 Power in



Continuous Effect: If you disable or destroy an Upgrade in an attack, you may steal it instead.



Weapon

Cloak of Invulnerability

Chassis





conjunction with Chassis 2. Yields +6 Power in



Wilson's Steam Block Harness



Power

Crossflux Particle Beacon

Starts in Time 8, 2168

Falko's "Safer" Paddle Barge Starts in Time 6, 1977

You roll 3 dice to move. Continuous Effect:





conjunction with Chassis 1. Yields +6 Power in

Starts in Time 6, 1977

Bronsky's Handheld Pipe Lighter



Starts in Time 7, 2020

White's Local Turbo Laser

time, and roll I die. You disable Action, Ranged Attack: Target any Upgrade belonging to a player in your your target on a roll of 4 - 6.







conjunction with Chassis 10.

Yields +6 Power in

roll I die. You disable your

target on a roll of $\dot{3}$ - 6.

Action, Ranged Attack:

Target any Upgrade belonging to a player in your time, and



Weapon









Klein's Tachyon Pistol

Target any Upgrade belonging to a player in any time ahead of you, and roll I die. You disable Starts in Time 7, 2020 Action, Ranged Attack: your target on a roll of 4 - 6.





Continuous Effect: Add +1 to your movement roll.





Gallela's Nuclear Dwarf-Digger

Starts in Time 8, 2168

Continuous Effect: When you move, you can move anywhere.

hassis

Power



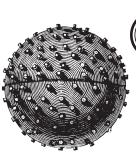


Yields +6 Power in

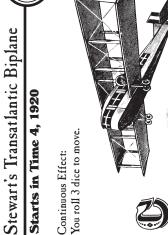












Power

Shield



Action:

You may disable this Upgrade to repair any other Upgrade on your machine.



Yields +6 Power in conjunction with Chassis II.



Starts in Time 1, 1814

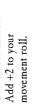


Starts in Time 1, 1814 Zorba's Volton Pump

Bowker's Tandem Bicycle Starts in Time 3, 1895

10

Continuous Effect:





Shue's Comfortable Hat

The Hart Creek Mooring Winch

Starts in Time 4, 1920

Yields +6 Power in Schriston yith Chassis 12.

Howe's Horseless Carriage











Continuous Effect:

Add +2 to your movement roll.





Chassis



Yields +6 Power in conjunction with Chassis 4.

Starts in Time 5, 1953

Shield

Continuous Effect: Ranged Attacks from other time periods are at a -1 to hit you.





Shield

Continuous Effect: All Ranged Attacks are at a -1 to hit you.



Lead-Lined Parasol

Drew and Wilson's Meat Crank

Shady's Early Warning Lenses







For 3 to 6 plyrs



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