

Nut Spinner

Mystery object from Brunel's SS Great Britain

Alistair Bird

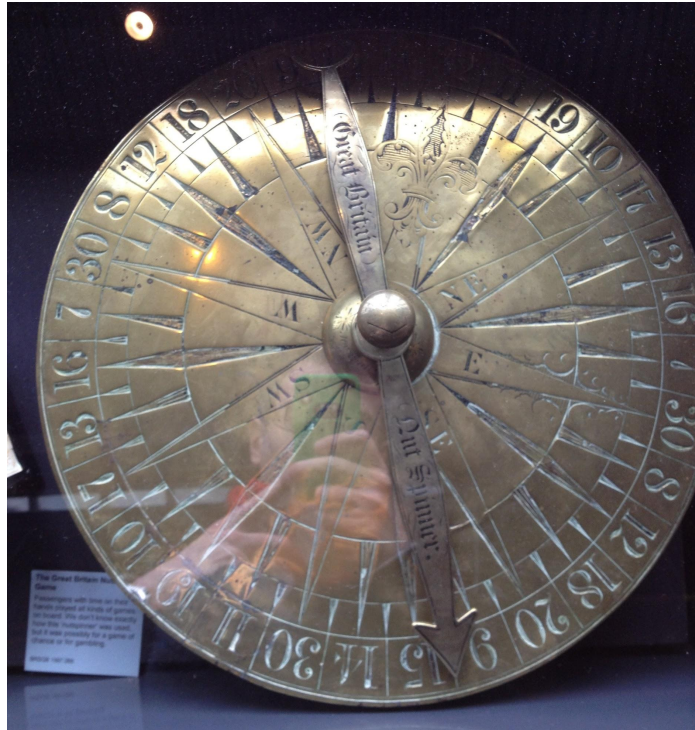
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Brunel's SS Great Britain



Nut Spinner



Nut Spinner display case label:

“The Great Britain Nutspinner Game

Passengers with time on their hands played all kinds of games on board. We don't know exactly how the 'Nutspinner' was used but it was possibly for a game of chance or for gambling.”



Not like roulette



- Roulette numbers are labels only
- Value of number is essentially unimportant to roulette
- Nut Spinner skips many numbers, repeats numbers in different amounts.

Money spinner?

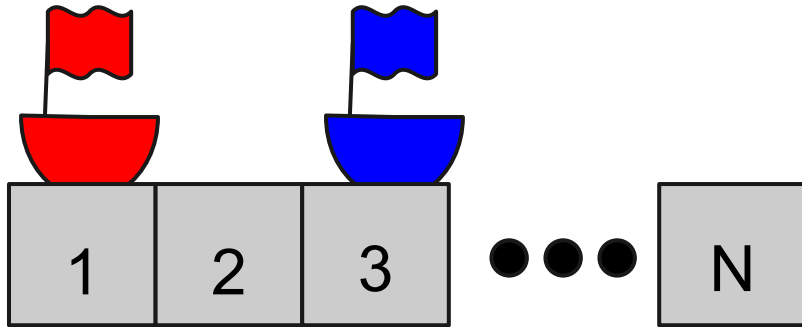
- Bet 16 'units'
- Get back number of units spun
- House makes ~2% (vs. ~3% in Euro Roulette)
- Awkward transactions & doesn't seem much fun.
Returns would be double or less: winning more or losing everything seems more fun.

More like darts?



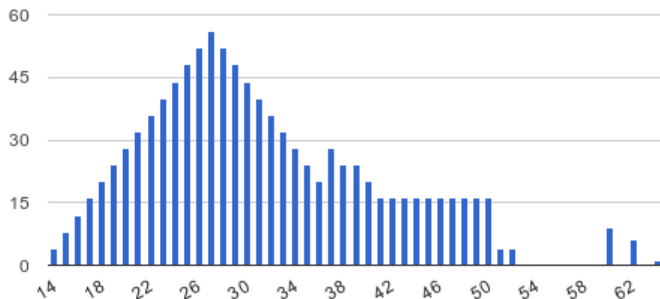
- Abstract race game
- Low numbers next to high to punish poor aim.
- By convention, high is good, numbers are added.

Race game?

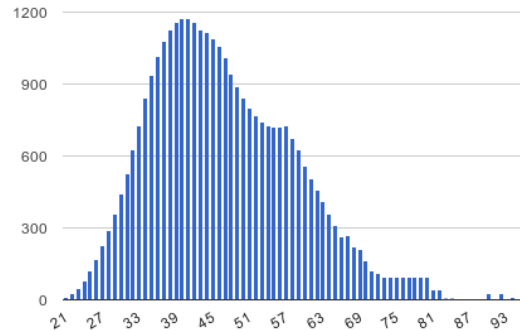


- Spinner for a now missing game?
- How many spaces?

After two spins



After 3 spins



After 4 spins

