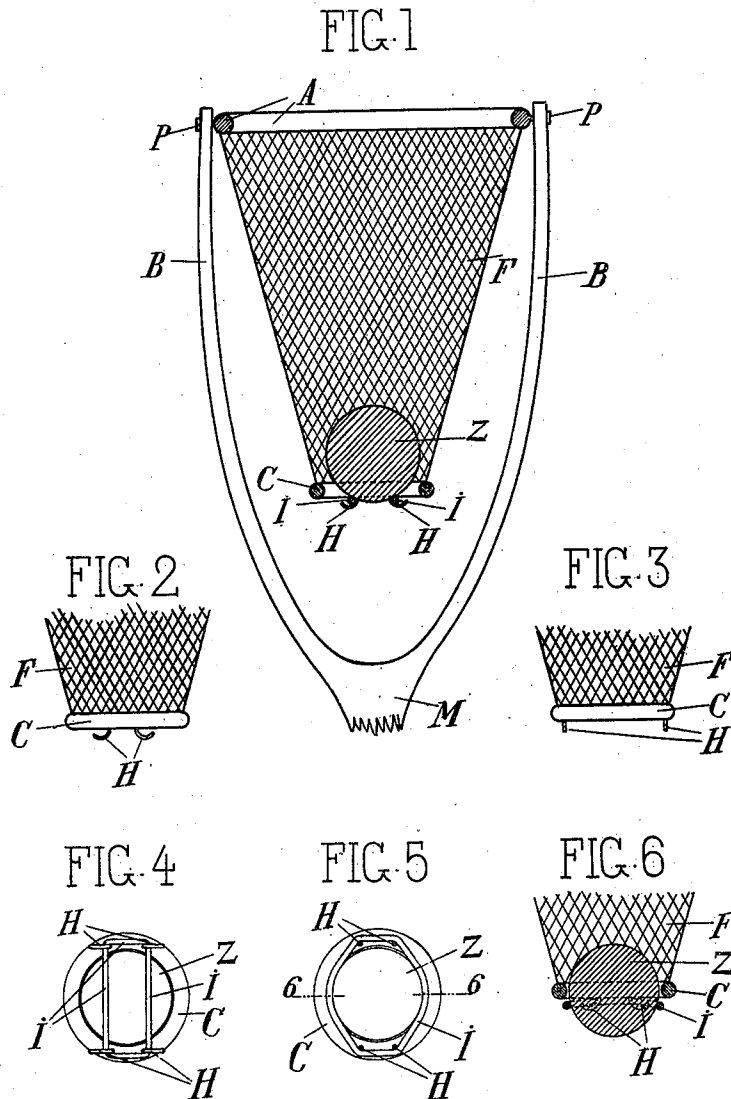


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SLING FOR BALL GAMES.  
APPLICATION FILED JULY 7, 1909.

975,193.

Patented Nov. 8, 1910.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARMAND D'ABREU, OF PARIS, AND ERICH SEEGER, OF ENGHEN, FRANCE.

## SLING FOR BALL GAMES.

975,193.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 8, 1910.

Application filed July 7, 1909. Serial No. 506,343.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, ARMAND D'ABREU, a subject of the King of Portugal, residing at Paris, France, and ERICH SEEGER, a subject

of the Emperor of Germany, residing at Enghien, Department of Seine, France, have invented new and useful Improvements in Slings for Ball Games, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to slings for ball games.

The sling is designed to replace the rackets and other accessories used in the various games of tennis and lawn-tennis.

Referring to the drawing, which forms part of this specification: Figure 1 is a vertical section of an improved sling embodying our invention; Fig. 2 is a front view of the lower ring provided with hooks for fastening the elastic ring; Fig. 3 is a side view of the lower ring with hooks as shown in Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is an inverted plan of the lower ring of the sling, provided with its hooks and elastic ring retaining the ball at the moment of its catching; Fig. 5 is an inverted plan of the lower ring, at the moment when ball flies out; the hooks are shown in section, in order to more clearly represent the form assumed by the elastic ring at the said moment; Fig. 6 is a vertical section along line 6-6 of Fig. 5, showing the ball at the moment when it flies out.

The sling is composed of a net-basket —F— preferably made of cord, silk, horse hair, catgut or the like, having at the top a rigid ring —A—, pivoted at —P— between the arms —B— of a fork provided with a handle —M—, preferably of wood; at the bottom, the net —F— has also a rigid ring —C—, preferably of metal, whose diameter is sensibly larger than that of the ball —Z—, so as to permit the said ball to pass freely. These arrangements are already known and we do not claim the same under the present invention which has especially for its object the simplified arrangement now to be described of devices for retaining the ball in the bottom of the net and allowing it to come out at the moment when it is thrown. For this purpose the lower rigid ring —C— is furnished with four hooks —H— which serve for fastening a flexible ring —I—. This ring —I— is stretched around the said hooks, in the manner indicated in Fig. 4, so

that it assumes the rectangular form shown and normally retains the ball falling in the net. The ring —I— which is made of india rubber is covered with a sheath of cotton, silk or the like which protects it and prevents the india rubber from coming into direct contact with the ball, thus facilitating the issue of the latter, which forces the ring —I— to open and passes through the ring —C— and is thrown outside in the desired direction, when the sling is used in the following manner: The sling is held in the hand by the handle —M—, and the catching of the ball sent by a fellow-player is effected by presenting the opening of the net or top-ring —A— to the trajectory of the ball, this latter enters the net, and its falling out is prevented by the flexible ring —I—. In order to throw the ball, player must impart a rapid circular motion to the sling, attained by turning the arm about the shoulder as when using an ordinary racket. Under the influence of the centrifugal force, the ball forces the elastic ring —I— to open at the very moment when the player stops the impetus given to the sling, and the ball is thrown out in the desired direction.

The weight of the ball used by different players may vary. Accordingly, in order to enable the sling to be used by players of different muscular power, it is only necessary to replace the ring —I— by another of greater or less strength, suited either to the weight of the ball or to the strength of the player, or to the distance to which the ball is to be thrown.

We claim:

1. A sling comprising a handle having a forked end, a basket comprising top and bottom rings, each of said rings being of greater diameter than the diameter of the ball with which the sling is used, a netting extending between the rings, means for pivoting the top ring between the ends of the fork, a plurality of hooks carried by the bottom ring, said hooks being spaced from one another, and an elastic ring engaging said hooks and extending across said bottom ring to retain the ball within the sling.

2. A sling comprising a handle having a forked end, a basket comprising top and bottom rings, each of said rings being of greater diameter than the diameter of the ball with which the sling is used, a netting extending

between the rings, means for pivoting the  
top ring between the ends of the fork, four  
hooks carried by the bottom ring, said hooks  
being spaced from one another and an elas-  
5 tic ring engaging the hooks and extending  
across the bottom ring to retain the ball in  
the basket.

In testimony whereof we have signed our

names to this specification in the presence  
of two subscribing witnesses.

ARMAND D'ABREU.  
ERICH SEEGER.

Witnesses:

ADRIANO DE LEUCASTRE,  
ERIK BECKER.