Aug. 22, 1950 F. W. BERRY 2,519,876

BOWLING BALL IDENTIFICATION MARKER

Filed Jan. 23, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

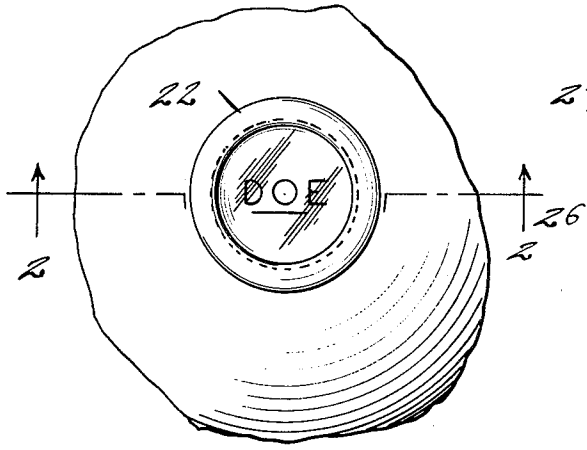


Fig. 3.

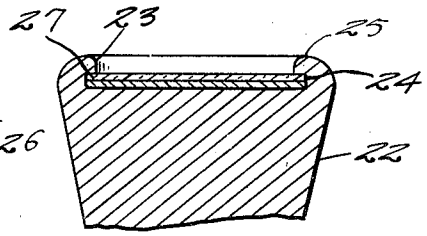


Fig. 4.

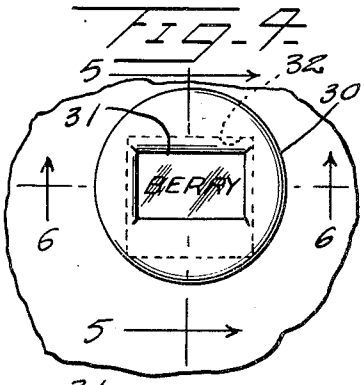
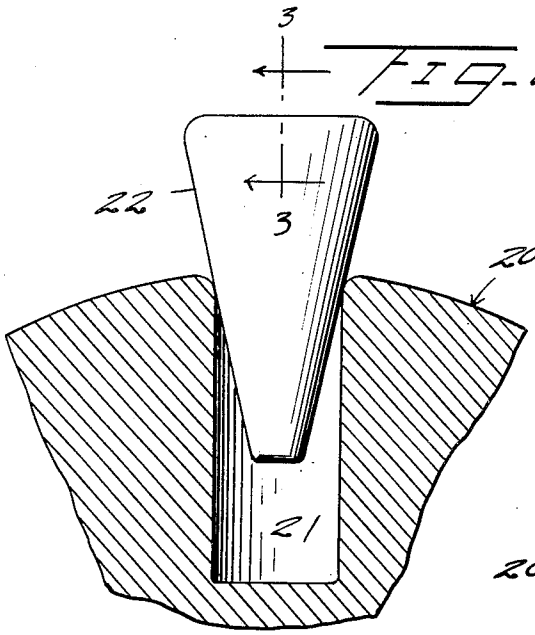


Fig. 2.



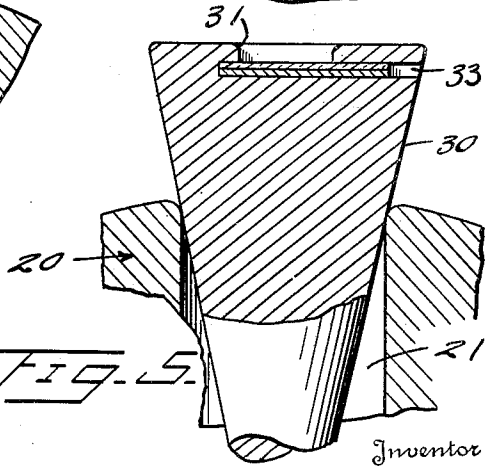


Fig. 5.

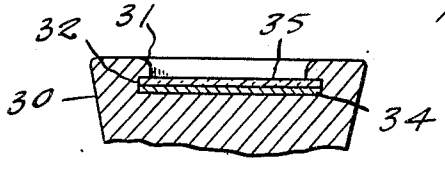


Fig. 6.

Inventor

F. W. Berry

By Kimmel & Crowell Attorneys

Aug. 22, 1950 F. W. BERRY 2,519,876

BOWLING BALL IDENTIFICATION MARKER

Filed Jan. 23, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 7.

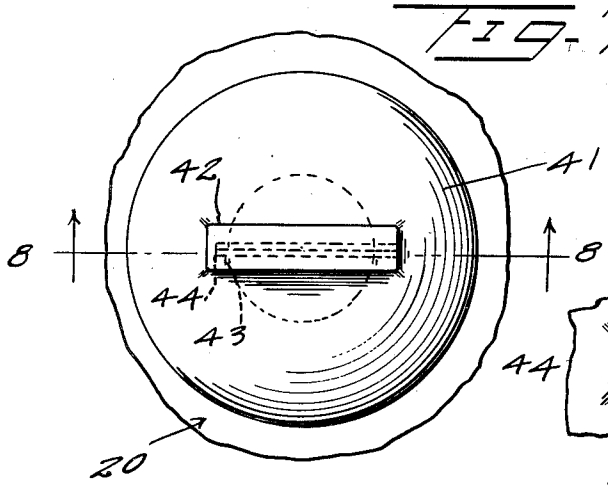


Fig. 9.

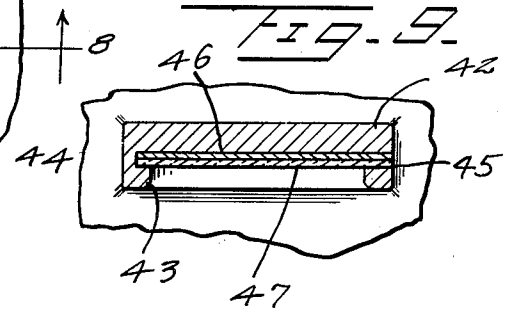


Fig. 8.

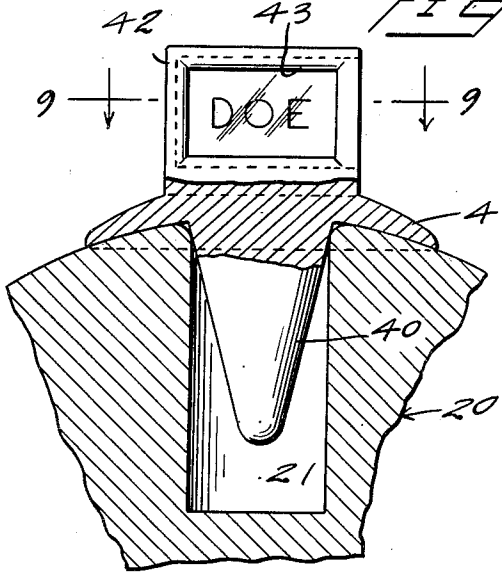
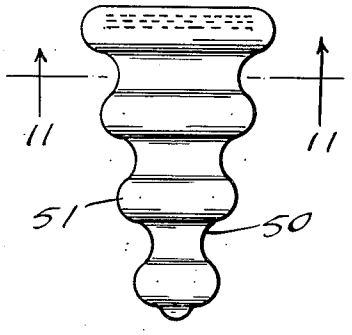


Fig. 10.



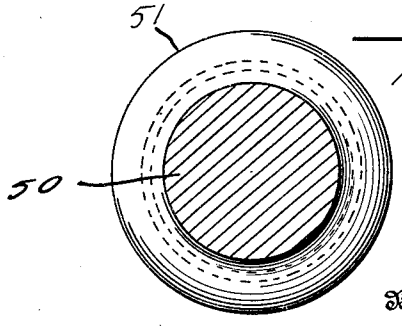


Fig. 11.

Inventor

F. W. Berry

By

Kimmel & Crowell Attorneys

Patented Aug. 22, 1950 2,519,876

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,519,876

BOWLING BALL IDENTIFICATION MARKER

Forrest W. Berry, Akron, Ohio

Application January 23, 1946, Serial No. 642,875

1 Claim. (Cl. 40—8)

1

This invention relates to identification markers and more particularly to a plug bearing an identification tag or card insert which may be inserted into an opening or hole as the finger hole in a bowling ball.

It is an object of this invention to provide a plug which may be readily inserted into a finger hole of a bowling ball or any similar opening and to provide the plug with an identification marker.

Another object of this invention is to provide a plug which is adapted to be readily inserted into and removable from a finger hole of a bowling ball or similar opening in which the plug is provided with a top opening through which the identification marker may readily be viewed and a side opening through which the identification marker may be readily inserted and removed.

To stamp or impress any identification initials or other marks on the surface of a bowling ball would mar the surface of the ball and in such a case the desirable smooth surface would be adversely affected. This is especially so for a bowling ball owned by a proficient bowler. Since many bowlers own their own bowling ball and carry it with them from place to place, it is very desirable that a marker be provided to readily identify each ball. An identification tag pasted on the ball is likewise undesirable as some paste remains on the ball when the tag is removed. The identification plug as set forth in this invention eliminates the undesirable characteristics of other types of identification markers, and is equally, if not more, effective for identification.

A still further object of this invention is to provide an identification plug which may be readily manufactured and marketed at a very reasonable price.

While it is true that most bowlers who own their own ball carry the ball in a bag or satchel and have identification tags affixed to the bag, while at the bowling alley the ball is left on a rack for some time and it is at this time and others when the ball is removed from its container that identification means as set forth by this invention are particularly applicable.

To the foregoing objects, and others which may hereinafter more fully appear, the invention consists of the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts, as will be more specifically referred to and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, but it is to be understood that changes, variations, and modifications may be resorted to which fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

2

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of an identification plug inserted in a bowling ball,

Figure 2 is a view, partly in section, taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a top plan view of a modified form of plug,

Figure 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4,

Figure 6 is a section taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 4,

Figure 7 is a top plan view of a second modification of this plug,

Figure 8 is a side view, partly in section, taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 7,

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken on the line 9—9 of Figure 8,

Figure 10 is a third modification of this invention, and

Figure 11 is a section taken on the line 11—11 of Figure 10.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 20 designates generally a bowling ball having a finger opening 21. The identification plug 22 is partially insertible into the opening 21. The plug body 22 is of a frustro-conical or generally tapering configuration so as to be applicable to various bowling balls having different sized openings 21. The plug 22 may be made of wood, rubber, plastic, or any other suitable material. The top portion of the plug 22 is formed with an annular opening or recess 23 and a groove 24 in the side walls formed by the opening 23 resulting in a flange 25, overhanging the groove 24. A card 26 of paper or other suitable material is formed into a disc larger than the opening 23 and of suitable size to be retained in the slot 24. The identification marks are placed on this card 26. A second disc 27, of a size similar to the disc 26, is made of suitable transparent material and is inserted into the opening 23 and groove 24 over the card 26 to prevent obliteration of the marks on the card 26 by dirt or other substances tending to mark the card 26 when inserted into the plug 22.

A modification of this invention is exemplified in Figures 4, 5 and 6, wherein the plug 30, also of a frustro-conical configuration, is formed with a rectangular opening 31 in the top thereof, an opening 33 in the side of the plug 30 having a rectangular groove 32 about the edges thereof, through which a card 34 and a protective transparent sheet 35 may be removably inserted.

Another modification of this identification plug is shown in Figures 7, 8 and 9. In this modification the tapered plug **40** is formed at its upper end with a wide annular concavo-convex flange **41** extending outwardly and downwardly around the finger opening **21**. Formed integrally with the plug **40** and flange **41**, a card support **42** extends upwardly from the flange **41**. The card support **42** is formed with an opening **43** on one side, and a groove **44** on three sides of the inner surfaces formed by the opening **43**.

An opening **45** in the side of the support **42** communicates with the groove **44** and opening **43**, forming a passage whereby a card **46** and transparent sheet **47** may be inserted into the holder **42**.

A third modified form of this invention is seen in Figures 10 and 11. In this form of the invention the plug **50** is of a generally tapering configuration and is formed with annular ribs **51** along the length of the plug **50**, whereby the diameter of the ribs **51** becomes decreasingly smaller towards the bottom of the plug **50**. For different sized finger openings in the ball **20** different ribs **51** will be in engagement with the sides of the hole, depending on the size of the hole. In the forms shown by Figures 1 through 9, the plug is wedged into the outer end of the opening **21**, whereas in the form of Figures 10 and 11 the ribs **51** are pressed into the hole **21** and engage the sides of the opening.

The exact configuration illustrated is regarded as the optimum, but some of the desirable results inherent in this disclosure may be obtained by various slight modifications including some departure from the exact configuration shown, and it is therefore requested that the scope of the invention should be regarded as limited only by the terms of the claim.

What I claim is:

In combination with a bowling ball having a relatively deep finger engaging aperture therein, a resilient frustro-conical identification plug comprising a single unitary member having a maximum diameter materially greater than the diameter of said aperture and a minimum diameter materially less than the diameter of said aperture whereby said plug may be partially inserted in said aperture and secured therein by wedging action, a material portion of said plug projecting from said opening whereby said plug may be readily removed, said plug having a recess in the upper end thereof, an undercut groove about said recess forming an overlying flange, and an identification card removably insertable in said recess beneath said flange.

FORREST W. BERRY.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
341,442	Berghauer	May 11, 1886
369,310	Alden	Sept. 6, 1887
557,655	Dillingham	Apr. 7, 1896
600,849	Brown	Mar. 15, 1898
605,591	Webster	June 14, 1898
985,354	Leet	Feb. 28, 1911
1,476,629	McOlvin	Sept. 30, 1922
1,918,243	Bergaud	June 29, 1931
2,263,052	Ross	Nov. 18, 1941
2,338,994	Brittain	Sept. 21, 1942
2,372,958	Keith	Apr. 3, 1945