

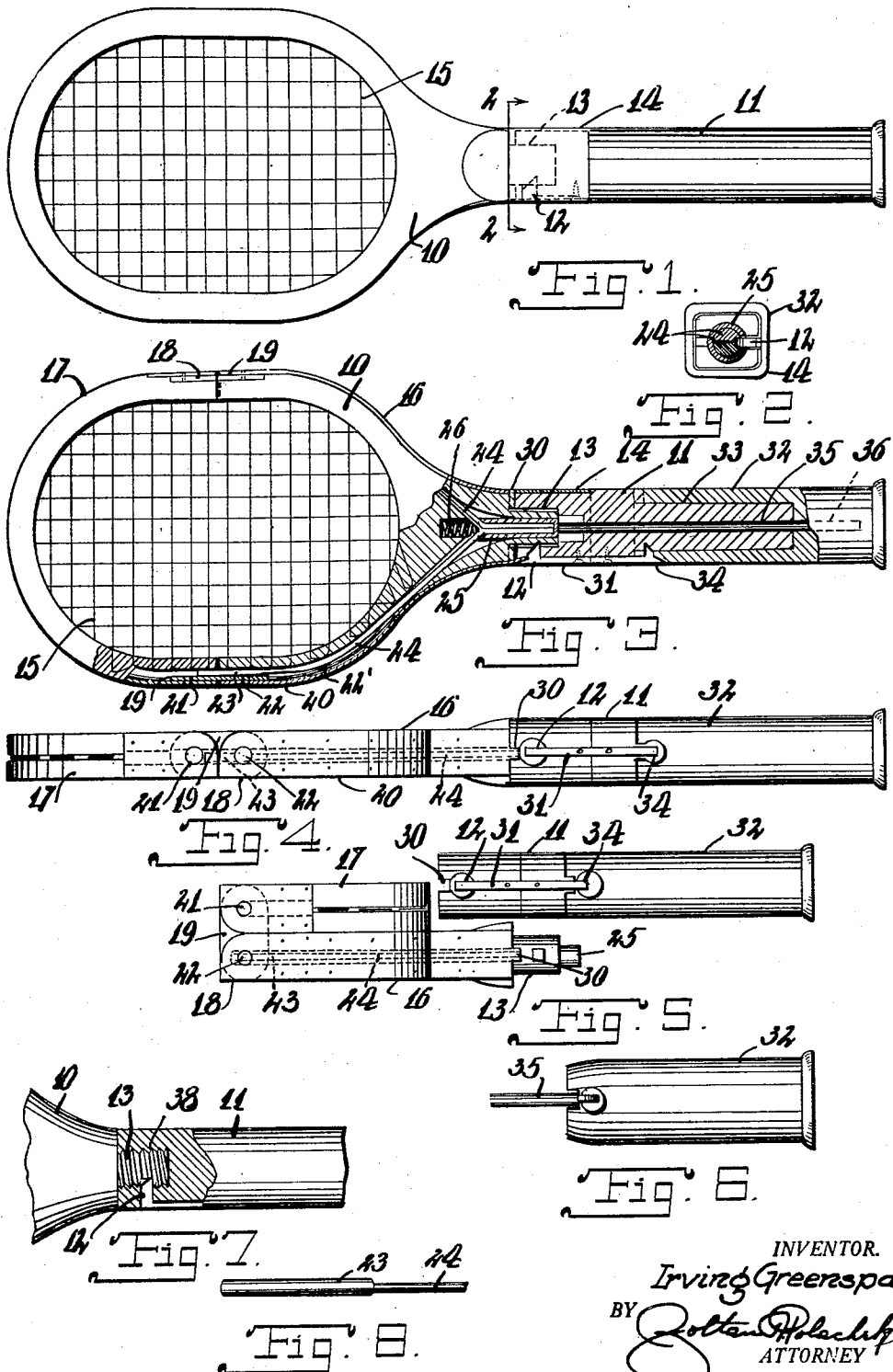
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TENNIS RACKET

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TENNIS RACKET

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This invention relates to a jointed tennis racket and its object is to provide a device of this character in which the elements may be taken apart and laid, the one over the other in such a manner as to occupy a greatly reduced space within a bag, or other form of carrying case.

The racket conforms closely in appearance to the conventional design of these articles, and is neat, compact and securely joined together.

Another feature of the invention is a means for attaching handles of varying sizes or other characteristics.

These and other objects and advantages will be fully described in the following specification and claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a plan view of the device in its simplest form.

Fig. 2 shows a transverse view of the handle at the joint as indicated by the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Fig. 3 shows a more elaborate construction partly in section, in which the handle butt is removable.

Fig. 4 shows a side view of the illustration seen in Figure 3.

Fig. 5 shows the racket detached and folded together.

Fig. 6 shows a handle butt of larger size.

Fig. 7 shows a fragmentary view of a modification of the main joint with threaded shank.

Fig. 8 shows in enlarged scale, a modified form of a side bolt and wire.

Referring first to Figure 1 of the drawings, the device comprises a frame 10, a handle 11, a snap catch 12, a shank 13, a reinforcement 14 and the usual cross strings 15. The frame and handle are preferably of wood.

In the form of the invention shown in Figure 2, the frame 10 is divided into two parts 16 and 17 which are jointed together by the link-hinge 18. In this hinge the link 19 is pivoted to the sheathing 20 as at 21 and 22.

The sheathing 20, which is preferably of metal, is secured to the frame 10 and forms a covering for the groove 22'. The bolts 23 are

of hard tempered metal and are welded, or otherwise secured to the flexible wires 24. These wires run along the grooves and are secured within a slidable end piece 25. The spring 26 serves to push this back when the handle 11 is removed. This motion draws the bolts 23 and permits of folding the frame as seen in Figure 5. Still referring to Figure 3 it will be seen that the shank 13 fits into the socket of the handle 11, being secured against turning by the tongue and groove 30. The shank is locked by the snap catch 12 which is on the spring strip 31.

The handle-butt 32 seen in this figure slides over the shank 33 and is locked by the snap catch 34. This also is tongue and grooved to prevent turning. A rod 35 is secured in the handle-butt at 36 and when the assembled handle is formed onto the shank 13 it engages the end piece 25 and pushes it forward thus forcing the bolts 23 into engagement with the forward portion of the frame.

The racket is shown folded together in Figure 5. The end piece 25 may be seen in this view in its open position extending outward from the shank 13.

A handle-butt 32 of extra large size is shown detached in Figure 6. Any number of sizes of these butts may be adapted for use with the racket.

The modification shown in Figure 7 provides a screw threaded shank as seen at 38.

In Figure 8 is shown a modified form of a side bolt in which the flexible wire 24 terminates in a bolt of increased diameter which will give greater rigidity to the joint.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. In a tennis racket, a stringed frame, a shank at the base thereof, hinged joints at the sides of the said frame, side bolts slidable from the base portions of the frame into the adjacent forward frame elements, a slidable member within the aforesaid shank, means to connect the same with the said bolts, a handle element attachable on the said shank, and means within the said handle element to engage and to actuate the said slidable member.

2. A tennis racket comprising a foldable frame, strings secured thereto, bolts engaging the adjacent portions of the said frame, grooves in the sides of the said frame and flexible wires within the grooves and secured to the said bolts, a slidable end member secured to the flexible wires, and the said end member encased within a shank at the base of the frame, a handle fitted to the said shank, a handle-butt mounted on the handle, and a rod within the said butt, which rod engages the end member and by means of same forces the bolts into operative positions.

3. In combination with a tennis racket, a stringed frame jointed at the sides thereof, bolts engaging the adjacent portions of the frame at the joints, a handle removably attached to the said frame, a handle-butt detachably mounted on the said handle, and means to actuate the aforesaid bolts through elements which co-act with the said handle butt.

4. A tennis racket comprising two frame sections hingedly connected, a handle removably attached to one of the frame sections, means for locking said sections in inoperative positions, and means for releasing said locking means upon removal of said handle.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

IRVING GREENSPAN.