Nov. 18, 1969 J. J. GOEDERS 3,479,028

PORTABLE PITCHING MOUND

Filed Nov. 14, 1966

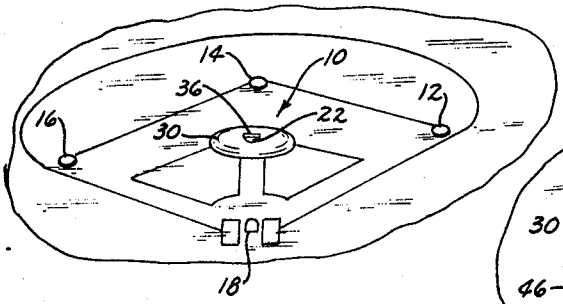


Fig. 1

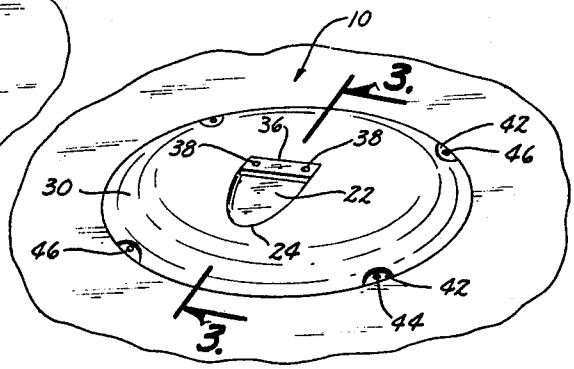


Fig. 2

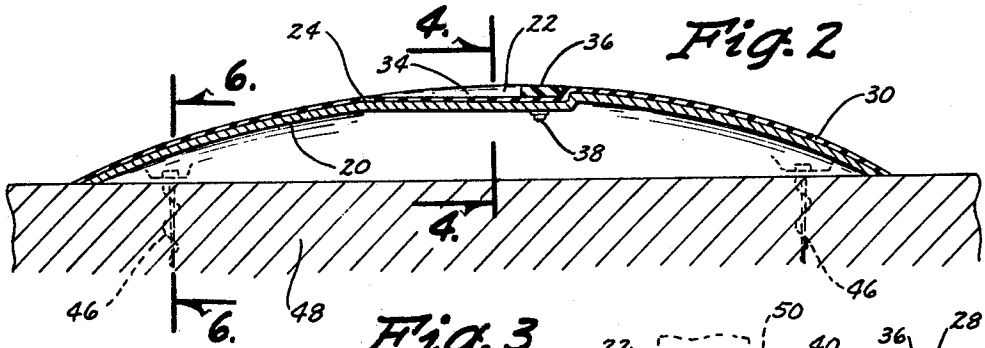


Fig. 3

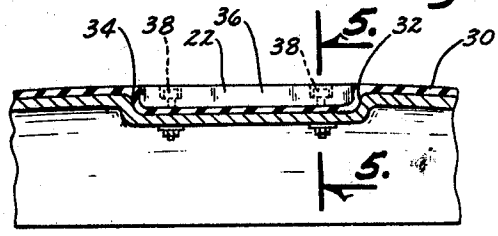


Fig. 4

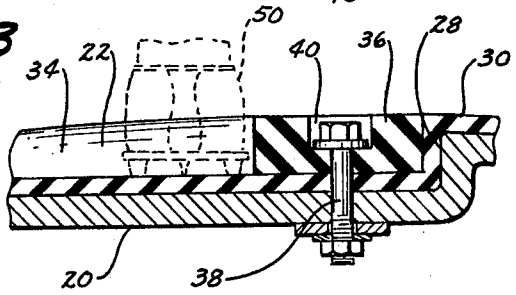


Fig. 5

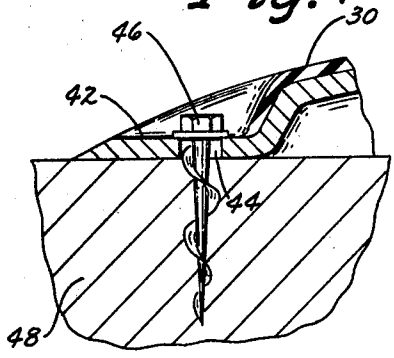


Fig. 6

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PORTABLE PITCHING MOUND

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U.S. Cl. 273—25 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A portable pitching mound having a pitching rubber on the upper surface thereof. The upper surface of the mound is provided with a flat depression area, forwardly of the pitchers rubber, which merges smoothly with the upper surface area toward the front end of the pitchers mound. The ends and sides of the mound slope downwardly to the supporting surface to form an inclined surface. The mound is secured to the supporting surface at its periphery.

The pitching mound in a regulation ball park is elevated substantially over the elevation of the surrounding flat infield. Junior leaguers and high school teams will frequently convert a playground area into a baseball field which will lack the pitching mound. This puts the pitchers on such teams at some disadvantage in playing on a regulation field because they have not had the experience in using a regulation mound.

Thus, one of the principal objects of this invention is to provide a portable pitching mound which may be used on any play field to convert the pitching area to a pitching mound of a regulation ball park.

Another object of this invention is to provide a portable pitching mound which is extremely strong, lightweight and may be quickly secured in place and removed when desired.

Yet another related object of this invention is to provide a portable pitching mound having a generally convex upper surface and being covered with a resilient material.

A further related object of this invention is to provide a portable pitching mound which is hollow and formed from molded Fiberglas to include a depression for the pitching "rubber" and the pitcher's feet. A pitching rubber of resilient material relatively harder than the material covering the Fiberglas may be employed.

A still further related object of this invention is to provide a pitching mound having a depression for the pitching station in which a pitching rubber is positioned wherein the depression merges smoothly at its forward side with the curvature of the pitching mound and the pitching rubber has an elevation corresponding to the exterior surface of the pitching mound thus providing a relatively smooth surface area.

Yet a still further related object of this invention is to provide a portable pitching mound which is formed from molded Fiberglas and includes a depression for the pitcher's feet and the pitching rubber; the molded Fiberglas mound being hollow and circular in shape with openings around the peripheral edge for receiving spikes to be driven into the ground to secure the mound in place, and the exterior convex surface of the mound being uniformly convex over its entire area.

A further object of this invention is to provide a portable pitching mound which is simple in design, economical to manufacture and refined in appearance.

These and other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

This invention consists in the construction, arrangements, and combination of the various parts of the device, whereby the objects contemplated are attained as hereinafter more fully set forth, specifically pointed out in the claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a baseball field utilizing the portable pitching mound of this invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged-in-scale perspective view of the pitching mound only on the baseball field;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 3—3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along line 4—4 in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along line 5—5 in FIG. 4; and

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along line 6—6 in FIG. 3.

The portable pitching mound of this invention is referred to generally in FIG. 1 by the reference numeral **10** and is shown on a playing field having bases **12, 14** and **16** and the home plate **18.**

The portable pitching mound **10** includes a molded Fiberglas body **20** circular in shape and hollow as seen in FIG. 3. A depression **22** is molded into the body **20** to provide a pitching station at the center of the mound **10.** As seen in FIGS. 3, 4 and 5, the depression **22** is flat relative to the convex exterior surface of the molded Fiberglas body **20.** However, the depression **22** has a forward end **24** which merges smoothly into the curvature of the body member **20** (FIG. 3). A rear end **26** in the depression is provided and includes an abutment shoulder **28** (FIG. 5).

The entire pitching mound exterior surface is covered with a sheet of resilient material **30** which extends completely over the depression **22.**

The depression **22** also has side shoulders **32** and **34** which taper forwardly to merge smoothly with the forward end **24** into the convex exterior surface of the body **20.**

A pitching plate or "rubber" **36** of resilient material, however, less resilient than the covering material **30,** is secured by bolts **38** to the Fiberglas body **20.** The heads of the bolts **38** are received in wells **40** formed in the plate **36** to avoid any protrusions along the upper surface thereof.

It is seen, for example, in FIG. 3 that the rubber or plate **36,** although having a substantially flat upper surface, is substantially coplanar with the upper surface of the convex shell **20.** It is also noted that the rubber **36** is placed on the covering material **30** which is between the plate **36** and the rear shoulder **28.** Thus the "rubber" or plate **36** serves to hold the covering material **30** in position in the depression area **22** where the most wear will appear during use.

It is seen in FIG. 2, a series of semicircular in shape depressions **42** are provided around the periphery of the shell **20** and each has an opening **44** in which a threaded anchor bolt **46** is inserted for securing the mound **10** to the ground **48** (FIG. 6). A conventional suction cup or the like (not shown) can be used in place of bolt **46** if the device is to be used indoors.

Thus, it is seen in use that an ordinary flat playing field may be converted into a regulation type field insofar as the pitching mound is concerned by use of the portable pitching mound **10.** The mound is positioned at the proper distance from the plates **12, 14, 16** and **18** and the anchors **46** are threaded into the ground. The pitcher may work from the pitching station formed by the depression **22.** His foot **50** will be positioned in the depression parallel to the rubber or plate **36** when runners are on base, as seen in FIG. 5. When the pitcher wishes to make a full wind-up, such as when the bases are either empty or loaded, his feet can be placed in the conven-

tional position transversely on the rubber with the "toe" portion of his forward foot extending into the depression. The mound of this invention for all practical purposes completely simulates a baseball field having a dirt shape mound. All of the movements of the pitcher may be performed on the portable pitching mound **10** as they would be on a dirt type pitching mound. The forward side of the pitching mound body **20** is shaped to slope downwardly just like a regulation dirt mound and accordingly the pitcher will experience no significant differences in pitching from the portable pitching mound **10** over a conventional dirt mound. The resilient material **30**, which is glued or otherwise secured to shell **20**, provides a realistic footing for the pitcher. It is also to be appreciated that the convex hollow shape of the Fiberglas body **20** provides an extremely lightweight but correspondingly strong body as the convex shape gives the body extra strength.

Some changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of my portable pitching mound without departing from the real spirit and purpose of my invention, and it is my intention to cover by my claims, and modified forms of structure or use of mechanical equivalents which may be reasonably included within their scope.

I claim:

1. A portable pitching mound, comprising,

a pitching mound body member of molded Fiberglas in the form of a convex shaped shell of substantially uniform thickness wherein it engages a supporting surface only at its peripheral edge, said member provided with an upper surface area, rearward and forward ends, opposite sides and a peripheral edge extending therearound,

a pitching rubber on the upper surface area of said mound body,

said ends and sides sloping downwardly and outwardly to said peripheral edge to form an inclined surface adjacent thereto,

said upper surface area laterally and rearwardly of and immediately adjacent to said pitching rubber being at an elevation substantially equal to that of said pitching rubber so that there is a substantially even and uninterrupted surface on said pitching mound as defined by the upper surface of said pitching rubber and the said upper surface area immediately rearwardly of and laterally of said pitching rubber, said body member having a flat depression area forwardly of said pitching rubber, said depression area at its rearward end having a maximum width and tapering forwardly to a narrower width at its front end merging smoothly with the upper surface area of the shell at said front end.

2. The structure of claim **1** wherein securing means are mounted on said body member for securing said body member to a supporting surface.

3. The structure of claim **1** wherein a resilient material extends over the entire upper surface of said Fiberglas.

4. The structure of claim **3** wherein said body member has openings along its peripheral edge, to engage means for securing said body member to a supporting surface.

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