No. 799,674. PATENTED SEPT. 19, 1905.

A. L. RICKMAN.

LAWN TENNIS COURT MARKER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 17, 1905.

Fig. 1.

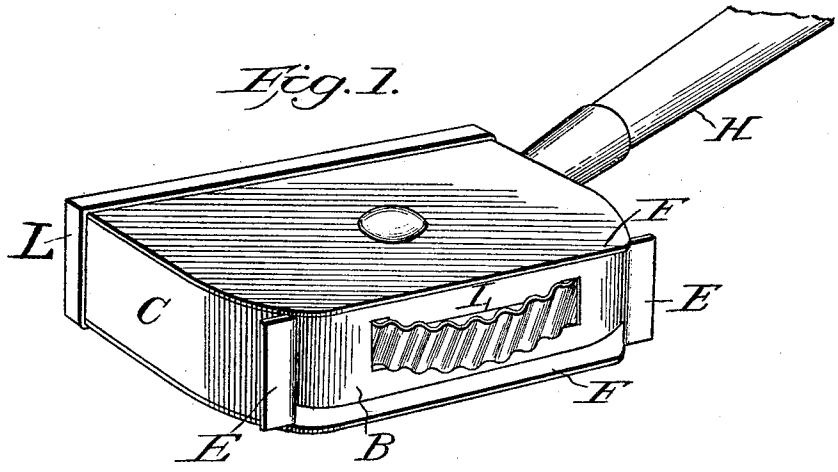


Fig. 2.

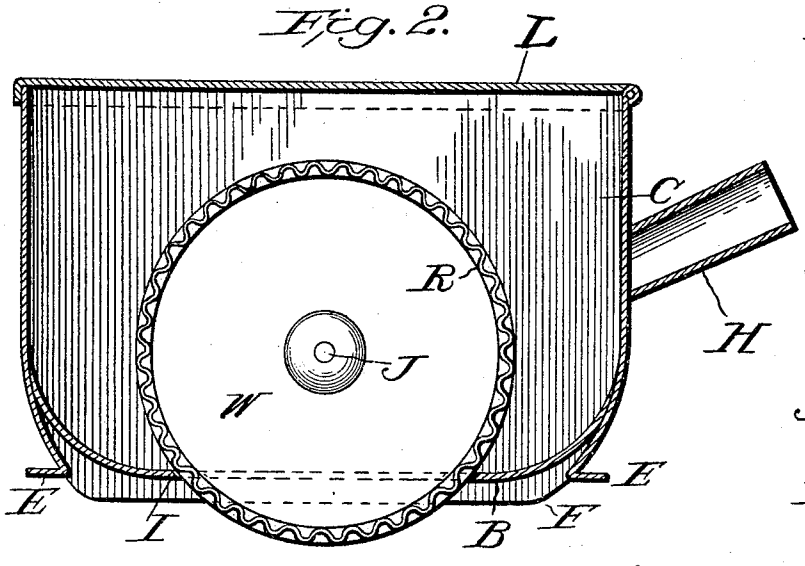


Fig. 3.

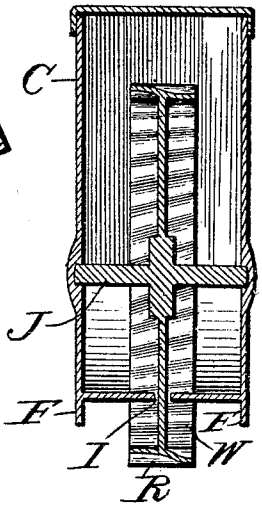
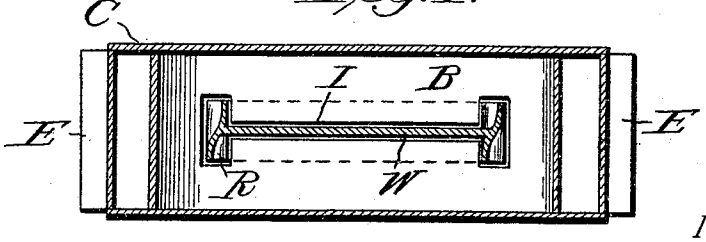


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LAWN-TENNIS-COURT MARKER.

No. 799,674. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 19, 1905.

Application filed July 17, 1905. Serial No. 270,147.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT L. RICKMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Sioux Falls, Minnehaha county, State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lawn-Tennis-Court Markers; and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with claims particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention relates to games and toys, and more especially to the game of lawn-tennis; and it consists in a device for marking out the court upon which the game of tennis is played, although it will be clear that it would be equally useful in marking out any other device upon the ground, the sod, or a pavement.

The object of the invention is to improve the construction of devices of this character heretofore made, the improvements consisting specifically in constructions whereby better facilities are afforded for loading, for making a straight, narrow, and heavy line, and for laying the lines without interruption by prevailing winds.

To these ends the invention consists in the details of construction set forth below and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure I is a perspective view of this marker complete viewed partly from the under side. Fig. II is a central longitudinal section. Fig. III is a transverse section. Fig. IV is a horizontal section taken just above the bottom so as to show the close fit of the wheel within the casing.

Referring to the drawings, the letter H designates a handle, to whose lower end is attached a casing C, made, preferably, of tin or other light metal and having a hinged lid L closing its open top, through which it can be filled with powdered lime or other substance with which the lines are to be made. This casing has a bottom B, and its sides and ends depend slightly below said bottom, so as to form side flanges F and end flanges E, the latter being preferably bent outward horizontally, as shown, so as not to impede the free movement of the device when in use. All these flanges travel very near the ground, and their purpose obviously is to prevent the existing wind from blowing away or scattering the lime as it is laid by my improved marker. The ends of the side flanges are rounded off to prevent their sticking into the earth, and the outturned portions of the end flanges stand at a little higher level than the lower edges of the other flanges, as shown. However, the operator by elevating or depressing the handle can cause that end flange E which is to the windward to travel as close to the earth as may be necessary, while the side flanges F always do so.

The bottom B of the casing is provided with an I-shaped opening I, through which extends the lower portion of a wheel W, whose body stands mainly within the casing and is mounted on journals J therein. Said body is extremely thin and flat and fits rather closely within the shank of the I-shaped opening, while the periphery or rim R of the wheel is somewhat wide and passes through the ends of the I-opening, as shown in Fig. IV. Here also it fits as closely as possible, the object being to prevent the undesirable escape of the marking-powder; but this rim is corrugated, preferably obliquely, so that the descending side of the wheel shall carry out through the end of the I-opening small charges of powder within the corrugations. If these are oblique, it will be clear that any lumps or obstructions which may exist in the powder will be deflected to one side, and hence no obstruction to the successful operation of the device will result.

In operation the lid is raised and the casing nearly filled with finely-powdered lime or other equally good marking substance. The handle is then grasped and the device lifted and carried to the point of use. Here it is put in position with the lower protruding periphery of the wheel upon the ground and the flanges nearly in contact therewith. Thereafter the marker is pushed along a former faint line or over a string or toward a given object if the user's eye be true, and the result will be that a narrow but heavy white line will be formed upon the ground, sod, or pavement. As the device progresses the contact of the lower periphery of the wheel with the earth causes the wheel to rotate, and in doing so the corrugations in the descending side of its periphery draw out fine successive charges of powder and carry them down and discharge them upon the earth. The close fit of the edges of the opening I around the body and periphery of the wheel prevents the escape of pow-

der at other points, resulting in its waste and the blurring of the line being formed. I consider it desirable to make the corrugations oblique for the reasons set forth above.

What is claimed as new is—

1. In a court-marker, a casing with an opening in its bottom, and side and end flanges depending below said bottom, combined with a wheel journaled within the casing with its lower side projecting through said opening.

2. In a court-marker, a casing with an opening in its bottom, and side and end flanges depending below said bottom, the end flanges being turned out horizontally; combined with a wheel journaled within the casing with its lower side projecting through said opening.

3. In a court-marker, a casing with an opening in its bottom, and means for feeding the marking-powder through said opening during the progression of the marker over the ground; combined with flanges depending from the sides of the casing and having rounded corners, and flanges depending from the ends of the casing and bent outward.

4. In a court-marker, a casing having an I-shaped opening in its bottom, combined with a wheel journaled within said casing and having a thin narrow body and a flat periphery, the lower side of body and periphery projecting through said opening.

5. In a court-marker, a casing having an I-shaped opening in its bottom, combined with a wheel journaled within said casing and having a thin body and a wide corrugated periphery, the lower side of its body and periphery projecting through said opening.

6. In a court-marker, a casing having an opening in its bottom, combined with a wheel journaled within said casing and having oblique corrugations in its periphery, the lower side of the wheel projecting through said opening.

7. In a court-marker, a casing having an I-shaped opening in its bottom, combined with a wheel journaled within said casing and having a thin body and a wide periphery both fitting closely within said opening and the lower side of the wheel projecting below the casing, said periphery being obliquely corrugated.

8. In a court-marker, a casing having an I-shaped opening in its bottom, and flanges depending from its sides and ends below said bottom; combined with a wheel journaled within the casing and having a thin body and a flat corrugated periphery, the lower side of the wheel projecting through said slot to a point below said flanges, all as and for the purpose set forth.

9. In a court-marker, an upright box-shaped casing having an open top and a closed bottom with a hole in the latter, and a hinged cover closing said top; combined with a wheel journaled within the casing and projecting through said hole, and means for simultaneously shielding the projecting portion of said wheel from wind on three sides, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my signature this the 14th day of July, A. D. 1905.

ALBERT L. RICKMAN.

Witnesses:

ED C. ZIMMERMAN,

M. E. STROHECKER.