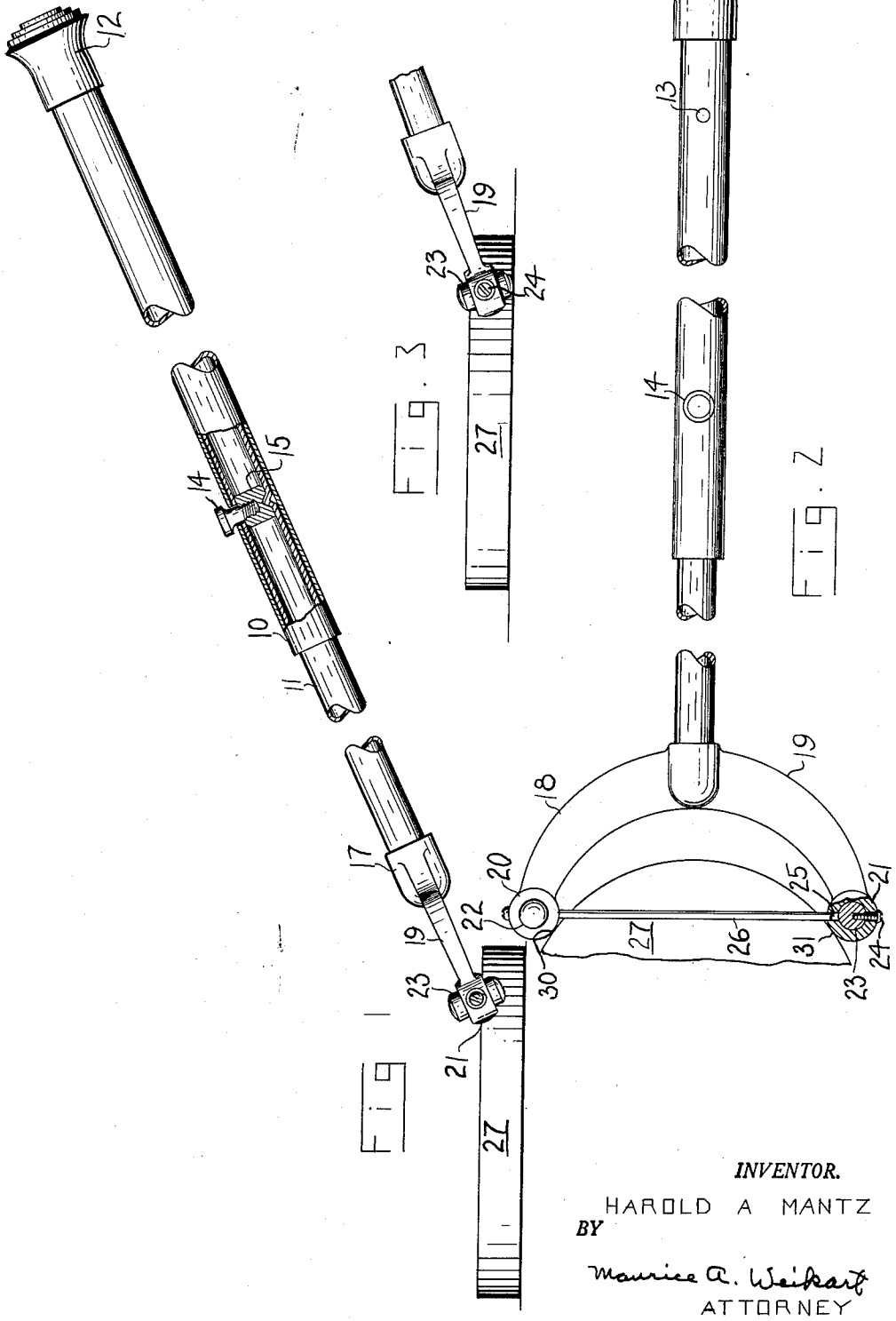
Sept. 13, 1955 H. A. MANTZ 2,717,780

SHUFFLEBOARD CUE

Filed Jan. 5, 1954



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United States Patent Office 2,717,780 Patented Sept. 13, 1955

2,717,780

SHUFFLEBOARD CUE

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Application January 5, 1954, Serial No. 402,337

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—129)

This invention relates generally to game cues and in particular to an improved shuffleboard cue.

In shuffleboard the cue is used to propel a disk or puck over an appropriately marked court. The court is often marked off on a suitably sized strip of concrete. This abrasive surface of the court, in time, produces a wearing away of the bearing surfaces of the cue, causing it to become unbalanced and inaccurate and otherwise unsuitable for use. This defect in the cue cannot be cured by using hard, abrasion resisting materials at the points where the cue contacts the game court since the rules of the game forbid the use of metal on parts of the cue which contact the court. The present invention meets this difficulty by means of a construction which affords convenient replacement of the parts functioning as the bearing surfaces for the cue on the game court.

Among shuffleboard players, as might be expected, various schools of thought have developed as to the proper positioning of the cue with relation to the disk or puck as the stroke is made. In general there are two points of view, one holding that the cue should bear only on the disk, not contacting the game court, the other preferring to contact the disk with the cue as the lower portion of the cue slides over, and in contact with, the game court. The present invention provides a cue which may be used by either group of devotees of the game by a simple manual alteration of certain portions of the cue.

Further, the handle of the cue, in the form of a rod or tube, is customarily several feet in length. This feature of the cue makes it singularly awkward to transport by auto, send by the mail service or otherwise transport. The present invention provides a means for altering the cue handle to put it into easily transportable form.

An object of the present invention is to provide a shuffleboard cue in which the portions bearing on the game court are easily and conveniently replaceable.

A further object is to provide a shuffleboard cue in which by a simple, manual operation, the cue can be made to bear entirely on the disk or puck, or can be made to contact the game court as the disk is propelled over the court.

A further object is to provide a shuffleboard cue in which the handle may be shortened to facilitate transporting.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a side view of the cue, partly in section, in position in relation to the disk, with the parts arranged so that the cue does not contact the game court.

Figure 2 is a top view of the cue, partly in section.

Figure 3 is a partial side view of the cue, similar to Figure 1 but with the parts arranged so that the cue contacts the game court.

Referring initially to Figures 1 and 2, the complete cue comprises an elongated tubular handle formed of the telescoping tubes **10** and **11** made of any suitable material such as aluminum. The outer tube has affixed thereto a rubber cap member **12**. A thumbscrew **14** extends through clearance holes in both the outer tube **10** and the inner tube **11**, and is threaded into a member **15** which is fixedly positioned, by any suitable means within the tube **11**. Additional clearance hole **13** (Figure 2) is provided in tube **10** adjacent its outer end. It will be apparent that the screw **14** may be removed, outer tube **10** pushed inwardly until its clearance hole **13** is in register with the member **15**; screw **14** may then be reinserted in the newly registered holes and threaded into member **15**; the handle will then be rigidly held in retracted position.

The cue handle is secured, by any suitable means, such as pressing, into the socket **17** of the cue head. The cue head is generally fork shaped, having the central, handle-receiving socket **17** and two extending arms **18** and **19**.

The extremity of each of the arms is formed into tubular pieces **20** and **21** having their central axes generally perpendicular to the plane of the cue arms **18** and **19**. As may best be seen in Figure 2, and referring particularly to the piece **21**, it being understood that piece **20** is in all respects identical, a cylindrical bearing member or insert **23** (having a counterpart **22** in piece **20**), which may be formed of nylon, or other suitable abrasion-resisting material, extends through piece **21** and is positioned and held therein by a screw **24**. Screw **24** passes through a clearance hole in piece **21** and is threaded into a registering hole in the insert **23**. Opposite the last mentioned clearance hole in piece **21** is a matching hole **25** into which freely extends a small rod or wire **26**. Rod **26** extends across the space between arms **18** and **19**, fitting into a corresponding hole in piece **20**.

It will be apparent that with rod **26** in place, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the rod **26** will overlie the disk or puck **27**, and the lower end of insert **23**, and its counterpart on arm **18** will not be in contact with the game court, the puck **27** receiving its propelling force at the points **30** and **31** (Figure 2) where it is contacted by the outer surfaces of tubular pieces **20** and **21**.

Referring again to Figure 2, it may be seen that upon removal of screw **24**, insert **23** may be readily removed for replacement. Also, rod **26** may be removed by first removing insert **23**, and sliding rod **26** out through the resulting diametrically opposite openings in piece **21** (opening **25** and the clearance for screw **24**). Insert **23** may then be replaced and fastened by reinserting screw **24**.

With rod **26** thus removed, the cue will then take a position with respect to the puck as shown in Figure 3. The arms **18** and **19** will be positioned lower with relation to the puck as compared to their position in Figure 1, and the lower, rounded portions of inserts **22** and **23** will contact the game court as the puck **27** receives its impetus from the cue.

It will thus be apparent that the shuffleboard cue above described has a particular utility in its adaptability for use by those preferring to retain the cue out of contact with the game court while sliding the puck, or by those preferring to permit the cue to contact the game court, this adaptability being achieved by a simple arrangement of parts which additionally provide for easy removal of the bearing inserts for replacement.

It will be understood that the invention herein described may be modified over that disclosed and the invention is to be limited only as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A cue for propelling a game disk over a game court comprising an elongated handle and a cue head secured thereto, said cue head having a generally fork-shaped body with two extending arms, an elongated member detachably secured to the outermost extremities of said

arms and adapted to span the distance therebetween, bearing members detachably secured to the outermost extremities of said arms, said bearing members extending generally normal to the plane of said arms and adapted to contact the game court when said elongated member is detached, said elongated member being adapted, when attached, to rest upon the upper face of the game disk thereby retaining said bearing members out of contact with the game court.

2. A cue for propelling a game disk over a game court comprising an elongated handle and a cue head mounted thereon, said cue head having a generally fork-shaped body with two extending arms, an elongated member detachably secured to the outermost extremities of said arms and adapted to span the distance therebetween, non-metal bearing members detachably secured to the outermost extremities of said arms at points on the axis formed by said elongated member, said bearing members extending generally normal to the plane of said arms and adapted to contact the game court when said elongated member is detached, said elongated member being adapted, when attached, to rest upon the upper face the game disk thereby retaining said bearing members out of contact with the game court, said outermost extremities of the arms being adapted to engage said game disk whether said elongated member is attached or detached.

3. A cue for propelling a game disk over a game court comprising an elongated handle and a cue head mounted thereon, said cue head having a generally fork-shaped body with two extending arms, an elongated member detachably secured to the outermost extremities of said arms and adapted to span the distance therebetween, non-metal bearing posts detachably secured to the outermost extremities of said arms at points on the axis formed by said elongated member, said bearing posts extending generally normal to the plane of said arms, said elongated member being detachable from the outermost extremities of said arms only after said bearing posts have been detached.

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