This invention relates to combination tennis racket presses and covers.

One object of this invention is to provide an improved tennis racket press and cover of simplified, neat construction, which shall be easy to operate for insertion and removal of the tennis racket and convenient in use at all times, and which shall afford thorough protection to the tennis racket against warping and moisture, and be reliable and rugged.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a combination tennis racket press and cover of improved construction to afford a maximum of air tightness for protection of the gut by simplified co-operation of the press and cover.

A further object of the invention is to furnish a combination tennis racket press and cover having improved detachable engagement with each other.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated in the annexed drawings, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a device embodying the invention showing the same applied to a tennis racket.

Fig. 2 is an edge view of the same.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view of a modified means for detachably securing the cover to the press.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view thereof taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a further modification of an attaching means.

Fig. 7 is a view of a modified air sealing combination press and cover.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawings, therefore, are submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawings, 10 denotes a device embodying the invention, and including a tennis racket press 11 and a cover 12 combined as a unit. The press and cover may in themselves be of any conventional construction, or may be slightly modified, if desired, to suit the particular construction of the device. In order that the invention may be readily understood, the cover and press will be briefly described.

The cover 12 is made of a fabric, or the like, and is adapted to receive the tennis racket 13 with the handle 14 of the same extending along the cover or outward from the same through an opening 15, which may be closed by a band 16. Insertion of the racket into the cover may be accomplished in any suitable manner through any opening therein, or through the said opening 15.

The press 11 includes a pair of frame members 17, 18 adapted to receive the tennis racket therebetween. These frame members may be of any suitable shape to properly retain the tennis racket between parallel planes. A plurality of screws 19 suitably located draw the frame members strongly together. These screws may be of any well known type, and may be operated by wing nuts 20.

To interengage the tennis racket cover and press, the former has registering holes 21 formed therein, through which the screws 19 may pass. The said holes may be reenforced by grommets 22. In this manner the cover is relatively permanently secured to the press at a plurality of points. A neat compact structure is provided, which is easy and convenient to use.

To facilitate insertion of the tennis racket, expansion coil springs 23 take around the screws 19 and tend to move apart the frame 100.
Accordingly on loosening the wing nuts 20, the press automatically opens for removal of the tennis racket. Moreover, the springs keep the device open to facilitate the reinsertion of the tennis racket. The grommets 22 are sufficiently large and flat to provide ample seating for the springs 23 and prevent damage to the fabric of the cover.

In Fig. 4 is shown a modification of the invention in which a detachable engagement means is provided between a tennis racket cover and the screws 25 of a press 26. By this invention any tennis racket cover may be secured in a simple manner by slipped on to any tennis racket press. One possible form of the said means will be described.

A connecting element 27 may be secured or pinned to the cover 24 in any suitable manner. By making the element 27 of fabric None of leather, or the like, it may be fastened to the cover by a staple 28 which may be applied preferably by hand.

A flexible or elastic member 29 may be secured to the element 27 in any desired manner, as by an eyelet 30. The member 29 may detachably engage the screw 25 in a lateral position; thus, by making the member like a hook it may resiliently receive the screw or be bent around. For this purpose, the hook 29 may be of thin metal. To afford a space between the side frames of the press and the springs with the springs, the hook 29 may be made of the requisite width as shown, or slightly less than the thickness of the tennis racket.

In Fig. 6 is shown a further modification in which a strip of fabric or other pliable material 31 is secured to the cover 32 as by being stitched at 33 in the seam thereof. The said strip has grommets 34 to receive the screw 35 of the press 36 at an end of the screw.

In Fig. 7 is shown a modification in which the press 37 is so co-ordinated with the tennis racket 38 as to press the cover 39 uniformly thereagainst to seal the interior space of the cover against the admission of any air that might affect the gut of the tennis racket.

To this end, the cover may be made of any desired material, including either fabric, or moisture-proof or rubberized fabric.

Herein there has always been a space between the portion 40 of the tennis racket or the adjacent portion 41 of the press. By this invention the size and shape of the press are co-ordinated to uniformly bear on the tennis racket frame and to hold the cover snugly in contact therewith. Thus the tennis racket frame constitutes a closure in combination with the cover for protecting the gut. If desired, the press may be lengthened, or the portion 41 thereof may be widened as shown. The cover and press may otherwise be of any conventional or simple types. The cover attaching means for this modification may be the same as shown in Figs. 1 to 3, or as described in the other figures herein.

Various changes and modifications may be made in this invention, of which the drawings are merely illustrative.

I claim:

1. A combination tennis racket press and cover, the press including a plurality of separate parallel skeleton frames, the cover having side walls of pliable material continuously secured together at an end and at the sides thereof, the cover being disposed between said frames and having an open end a portion opposite to said closed end, said portion extending from said walls beyond the press and being adapted to envelop the handle of a tennis racket inserted into the cover through said portion, and adjustable end fasteners extending through said frames and said walls of the cover at the corners of the press, said cover being otherwise independent of said frames, and said fasteners causing the frames to exert pressure on the tennis racket through the walls of the cover, one of said frames being removable from the fasteners, and the cover being removable from said fasteners.

2. A combination tennis racket press and cover, the press including a plurality of separate parallel skeleton frames, the cover having side walls of pliable material continuously secured together at an end and at the sides thereof, the cover being disposed between said frames and having an open end a portion opposite to said closed end, said portion extending from said walls beyond the press and being adapted to envelop the handle of a tennis racket inserted into the cover through said portion, and adjustable end fasteners extending through said frames and said walls of the cover at the corners of the press, said cover being otherwise independent of said frames, and said fasteners causing the frames to exert pressure on the tennis racket through the walls of the cover, one of said frames being removable from the fasteners, and the cover being removable from said fasteners, and expansion coil springs taking removably around the fasteners within the cover and serving to expand the same.

3. A portable combination tennis racket press and cover, including a pliable unitary bag-like cover permanently closed at an end and the side edges and open at the other end, a plurality of frames removably disposed on opposite sides of the cover, and fasteners for the frames, said fasteners removably passing through the cover and at least one of the frames, whereby the cover and press can be used individually or together.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ABRAHAM HALPIN.