June 1, 1954 C. F. BENJAMIN 2,680,024

DISK-MANIPULATING HEAD FOR SHUFFLEBOARDS

Filed Feb. 5, 1952

Fig. 1.

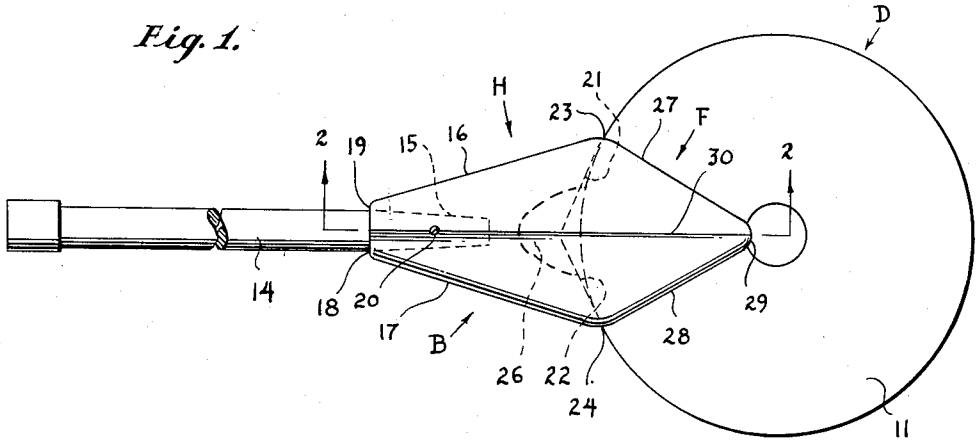


Fig. 2.

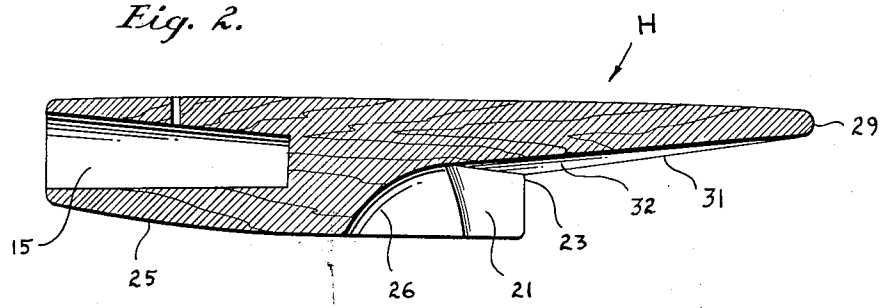
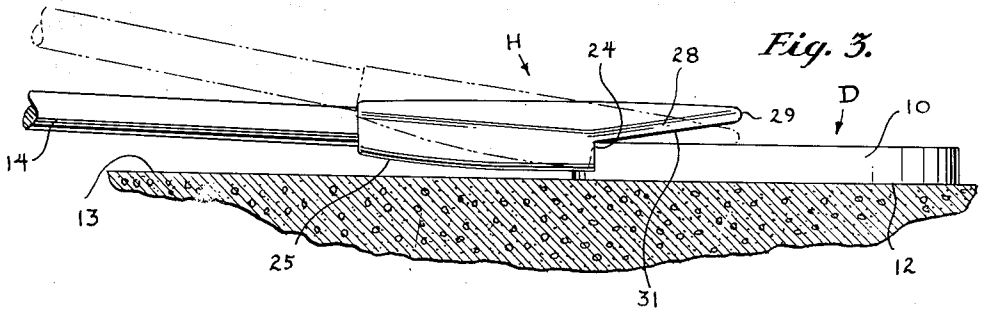


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR.
CLARENCE F. BENJAMIN
BY Pollard and Brune

ATTORNEYS.

Patented June 1, 1954

2,680,024

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,680,024

DISK-MANIPULATING HEAD FOR SHUFFLEBOARDS

Clarence F. Benjamin, Tampa, Fla.

Application February 5, 1952, Serial No. 269,999

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—129)

1

The present invention relates to the handles which are ordinarily employed in playing the game of shuffle board for the purpose of shooting the disc, and it is concerned primarily with the head of such a handle.

At the present time, the game of shuffle board as played outdoors on a cement surface requires the use of a handle which is grasped by a player for the purpose of manipulating and shooting the disc. From the very nature of the operation involved, one end of the handle is placed in detachable engagement with the disc as the shot is made, the inertia which is imparted to the disc causes it to move away from that end of the handle.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that the engagement of the handle end with the disc be of such a character as to enable the player to exercise a required degree of control so that a shot may be properly made. Because of this requirement, it has been the practice to utilize a head, which is secured to one end of the handle and which head engages the disc at points that are spaced apart an appreciable distance.

The heads heretofore employed have been of the forked type with each head including two tips which engage the disc at spaced points. These old type heads have proven satisfactory so far as making any one shot is concerned, but due to the fact that the tips engage the cement over which the disc slides, they quickly wear down and must be replaced at frequent intervals.

With the foregoing conditions in mind, the present invention has in view as its foremost objective, the provision of a new type of head for a shuffle board handle which is characterized by the feature that during manipulation of the disc, and the making of a shot, the head is at all times maintained out of engagement with the cement.

With such frictional engagement eliminated, there is no reason why the head should wear down, and it will last indefinitely.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a head for a shuffle board handle of the character indicated which includes a pair of tips that are adapted to engage the cylindrical edge of a disc at spaced points together with a forwardly extending pointed flange that is adapted to engage the upper surface of the disc so as to maintain all parts of the head out of engagement with the cement.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a head for a shuffle board handle of the character indicated which is so constructed as

2

to provide a good sight line that will enable the player to achieve a high degree of accuracy in the making of a shot.

In carrying out these ideas in a practical embodiment, a head is provided which comprises a main body portion defined by upper and lower surfaces, and sides which converge towards a small end which is formed with a socket which receives one end of the handle. The end of the main body portion is the widest part of the head. This end is formed with inwardly inclined surfaces which meet at a central recess, and which cooperates with the sides to define the two tips which engage the disc.

The upper surface of the main body portion is continued forward to provide a forwardly extending pointed flange that is adapted to engage the upper surface of a disc. The top surface of this flange and the top surface of the main body portion are continuous, and are formed with a central ridge that extends from the socket to the pointed end of the flange.

There is a slight decline outwardly from each side of this central ridge.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a head of the character indicated in which the undersurface of the outwardly extending flange is formed with a slight recess or depression which materially reduces the area of contact of this surface with the top of a shuffle board disc.

Various other more detailed objects and advantages of the invention, such as arise in connection with carrying out the above noted ideas in a practical embodiment, will in part become apparent and in part be hereinafter stated, as the description of the invention proceeds.

The invention, therefore, comprises a head for a shuffle board handle which consists essentially of a main body portion and a forwardly extending pointed flange formed integrally therewith at the upper surface thereof. The main body portion has converging sides which define a small end formed with a socket for receiving a handle, and a wide end formed with inwardly inclined faces and a central recess with the inwardly inclined faces cooperating with the sides to define tips that are adapted to engage a shuffle board disc at spaced points.

The upper surface of the main body portion and pointed flange are formed with a central ridge extending from the socket to the point of the flange, and this top surface is slightly inclined away from this ridge towards each side.

For a full and more complete understanding

of the invention, reference may be had to the following description and the accompanying drawing.

Figure 1 is a top plan view illustrating the head as applied to a disc with the handle broken away.

Figure 2 is a longitudinally vertical section through the head per se. This view is taken about on the plane represented by the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a view in side elevation of the handle, head, and disc, and illustrating the cement playing surface in section. In this view, one position of the head is illustrated in full lines, and another position by broken lines.

Referring now to the drawing wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts, a disc such as used in the playing of outdoor shuffleboard is referred to in its entirety by the reference character D, and is shown as being formed with a cylindrical edge or wall 10, a top surface 11, and a bottom surface 12. During the playing of the game, this bottom surface 12 will slide over a cement playing surface such as indicated at 13.

A handle such as is commonly employed in the playing of outdoor shuffle board is indicated at 14. The average length of such a handle is six feet, and it may be made of any appropriate material having the required properties of strength, rigidity, and lightness. One end of this handle is slightly tapered, as indicated at 15, whereby it is adapted to be received in a socket formed in a head.

The new type head of this invention is referred to in its entirety by the reference character H. It may be made of appropriate material, although the invention has particularly in mind the use of a light wood which may be readily fashioned into the shape now to be described.

The head H comprises a main body portion B and a pointed flange F, which are integrally joined and formed from a single piece of material such as the wood above mentioned.

The main body portion B is defined by converging sides 16 and 17. These sides 16 and 17 are substantially flat where they are more widely spaced apart. However, they are gradually rounded, with the degree of roundness increasing as the sides converge upwards a small end face 18. This end face 18 is formed with a socket 19 having a shape corresponding to the conical or tapered end 15 of the handle 14. This end 15 is received in the socket 19, and the attachment may be secured by the screw indicated at 20. The end of the main body portion B, between the wider ends of the sides 16 and 17, is formed with inwardly extending inclined faces 21 and 22.

The face 21 cooperates with the side 16 to form a tip 23, while the face 22 cooperates with the side 17 to form a tip 24. During the playing of shuffle board, these tips 23 and 24 engage the cylindrical wall of the disc D.

The faces 21 and 22 are of comparatively small extent, and between them, the bottom face of the main body portion B, which is presented at 25, is formed with a recess 26.

The pointed flange F is defined by sides 27 and 28 which converge and meet at a rounded nose, or point 29. This flange F is comparatively thin as compared to the main body portion B, and its upward surface constitutes a substantial continuation of the upper surface of the main body portion B. This upper surface is formed with a central ridge 30 which extends from the point 29 to the middle of the end face 18. The upper surface of the main body portion B and flange F is gradually inclined away from this central ridge 30 outwardly to each side.

The pointed flange F also includes a bottom surface 31 which is formed with a slight depression or recess which reduces the area of contact of this surface with the top face 11 of the disc D. In addition, the said bottom surface 31 of the flange F slopes downwardly in a rearward direction from the point 29 to the main body portion B, for the purpose to be described below.

Operation

While the manner in which the shuffle board head above described functions is believed to be obvious from the illustration of the drawing, and the description of the parts given, it may be briefly outlined as follows:

The head H is first secured to the handle 14 by inserting the tapered end 15 of the latter into the socket 19, and securing the attachment by threading home the screw 20.

A player now grasps the handle 14 in the usual manner and engages a disc D with the head H. As this engagement is effected, the tips 23 and 24 contact the cylindrical wall 10 while the lower surface 31 of the flange F rests on the top face 11 of the disc D. The player may now manipulate the disc so as to move it into position for the making of a shot. As a shot is made, the handle is lowered two or three inches. This movement will raise the pointed flange F sufficiently to free it of any contact with the top surface 11. At this point in the making of a shot, the only real engagement between the head H and the disc D is at the tips 23 and 24. As the shot is made, the player utilizes the ridge 30 as a sight line so as to achieve accuracy. Forward momentum is imparted to the disc D, and when forward motion of the head H is arrested, the disc will move away therefrom and travel over its intended path of movement.

The relative extent of the sides 16 and 17 of the main body portion B is of the utmost importance. Or, stating it in another way, the thickness of the main body portion B is an important part of this invention. The difference in thickness between the pointed flange F and the main body portion B should be less than the thickness of the disc D, because with this differential obtaining, the bottom surface 25 of the main body portion B will at all times be maintained out of engagement with the cement surface 13.

With such contact avoided, the head will not wear down during the manipulation of a disc or the making of a shot.

While the preferred specific embodiment of the invention is hereinbefore set forth, it is to be clearly understood that the invention is not to be limited to the exact materials, constructions, and design illustrated and described, because various modifications of these details may be provided in putting the invention into practice within the purview of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a disc-manipulating head for a shuffle board handle, a main body portion formed with sides which converge toward a small end that is provided with a conical socket adapted to receive one end of a handle; said main body portion being formed with inwardly inclined faces at the end thereof remote from said socket, which faces cooperate with said sides to form disc-engaging tips; and a forwardly extending flange integrally

connected to said main body portion and sloping downwardly in a rearward direction from the forward-most point thereof to said main body portion.

2. In a disc-manipulating head for a shuffle board handle, a main body portion formed with sides which converge toward a small end that is provided with a conical socket adapted to receive one end of a handle; said main body portion being formed with inwardly inclined faces at the end thereof remote from said socket, which faces cooperate with said sides to form disc-engaging tips; and a forwardly extending flange integrally connected to said main body portion and sloping downwardly in a rearward direction from the forward-most point thereof to said main body portion, said flange having an undersurface formed with a slight depression to reduce surface contact thereof with a disc with which it is intended to engage.

3. In a disc-manipulating head for a shuffle board handle, a main body portion formed with sides which converge toward a small end that is provided with a conical socket adapted to receive one end of a handle; said main body portion

being formed with inwardly inclined faces at the end thereof remote from said socket, which faces cooperate with said sides to form disc-engaging tips; and a forwardly extending pointed flange integrally connected to said main body portion and sloping downwardly in a rearward direction from the point thereof to said main body portion, said pointed flange having an undersurface formed with a slight upward depression to reduce surface contact thereof with a disc with which it is intended to engage; said main body portion and pointed flange having a continuous upper surface formed with a central up-raised sighting ridge extending from the socket end of said main body portion to the pointed end of said flange.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,895,393	Isbell	Jan. 24, 1933
2,207,718	Cassidy	July 16, 1940
2,225,241	Stearns	Dec. 17, 1940
2,567,313	Bailey	Sept. 11, 1951