June 20, 1939. W. K. YOUNGBERG 2,163,456

GAME

Filed Sept. 29, 1937

Fig. 1.

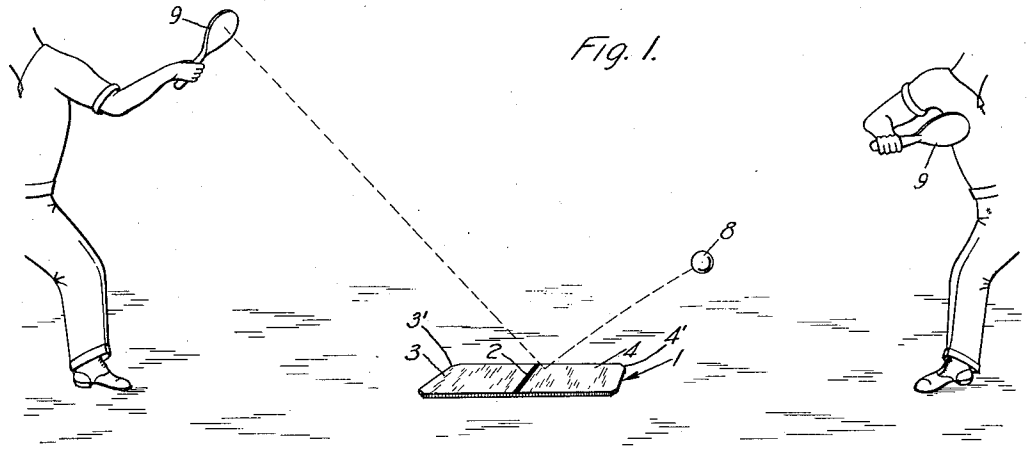


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

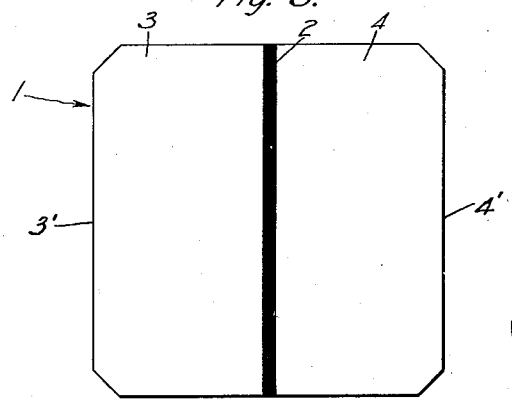


Fig. 5.

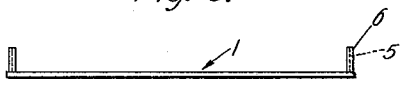
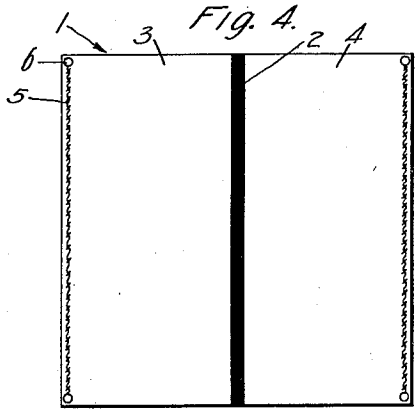


Fig. 6.



Fig. 4.



INVENTOR
Walter K. Youngberg.

By Mac L. Kelly

ATTORNEY.

Patented June 20, 1939 2,163,456

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,163,456

GAME

Walter K. Youngberg, Meriden, Conn.

Application September 29, 1937, Serial No. 166,305

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—95)

My invention relates to games.

It has among its objects to provide an improved game of the type adapted to be played with a ball and paddles, racquets or the like. A further object of my invention is to provide an improved and simplified game adapted to be played upon the floor or ground in any open space and indoors or outdoors, adapted to be played with a ball and paddles or racquets while utilizing a cooperating playing surface substantially on the level of the floor or ground and against which the ball must strike in play in such manner as to produce a very interesting and exciting game. These and other objects and advantages of my improvements will, however, hereinafter more fully appear.

In the accompanying drawing, I have shown for purposes of ilustration three embodiments which my invention may assume in practice.

In the drawing—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the elements of the game in play;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the playing board;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the latter;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of a modified construction of playing board;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Figure 4, and

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Figure 5 showing a further modified construction.

In my improved game, I provide an improved playing board, generally indicated at 1, and comprising a flat board adapted to be placed upon the floor, carpet, or ground, in any convenient location, and having its playing surface disposed close to the supporting level.

Herein, the board is divided longitudinally into halves by a dividing line 2, suitably printed or painted thereon, and serving to divide the board into playing portions 3 and 4 opposite the players. Further note that this board is herein, as in a preferred construction, formed of a plurality of connected layers of ply wood in such manner as to provide both a fast playing surface from which a sufficiently live ball will rebound with substantial speed, and such a surface which is both uniformly flat and adapted to be free from warping or the like. In a preferred construction, the board is also quite thin, preferably less than one-half of an inch in thickness in such manner as to enable it to cooperate effectively with the support in precluding the possibility of balls being played under the same.

In the use of my improved board, the players are so disposed as to serve the ball so that it contacts the far side of the playing portion of the board from the player, the left hand player for example serving on to the space 4, while the right hand player served on to the space 3. Thereafter, in play, each player must return the ball so that it contacts some part of the flat top surface of the board in the process of being returned to the other player, all in such manner as during the resultant rallying to produce an exceedingly fast and interesting game and one enabling the more skillful and active player to prevail. As to scoring, when the player serves on to the wrong portion of the board or strikes one of the transverse edges 3' and 4' of the board in such manner as to be deflected out of play by the edge, this counts as a point against the server, while if either player fails to return the ball into contact with some portion of the flat top surface of the board 1 or also causes the ball to strike an edge, this also counts as a point against that player.

In Figures 4 and 5, I have shown a modified construction wherein while utilizing a board such as previously described, I also provide low nets 5 along each edge of the board adjacent the players. Here note that these nets serve to make more accurate serving necessary and further act to minimize questionable edge shots. Also, of course, the inner surfaces of these nets engaging the ball and causing the loss of a point to the player, require that the player in his return shots play the ball in such a manner as to clear the net after he strikes the ball. In practice, the nets also tend somewhat to confine the ball and minimize its escape from the general area of the board, thus further speeding up the game.

While the nets 5 ordinarily are of light fabric, stretched between suitable supports 6, and I prefer such a construction, it will also be understood that, if desired, I may provide other forms of nets and also that I may use other upwardly extending projections on the edges of the board adjacent the players, as, for example, upstanding members 7 formed of wood, rubber or the like, shown in Fig. 7.

While the ball and paddles may obviously assume different forms, in a preferred form of my invention, the ball 8 is a moderately light but resilient rubber ball, as for example, a ball of ordinary or sponge rubber, solid or hollow as desired, while the paddles 9 may be entirely of plain wood or ply wood, or faced with other materials as desired, or even in the form of racquets if preferred. Also, the size of the board may be varied, but the same is preferably relatively

small and of a size which requires substantial accuracy in playing while being readily handled, a board approximately two feet square being found to be very satisfactory.

While I have in this application specifically described three forms which my invention may assume in practice, it will be understood that these forms of the same are chosen for purposes of illustration and that the invention may be modified and embodied in other forms without departing from its spirit or the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a game adapted to be played with a ball and paddles or the like for keeping the ball in play, a board engageable by a ball during play and disposable substantially in the plane of the feet of the players having an unobstructed plane playing area on its upper surface, means substantially in the plane of the upper board surface for dividing the latter transversely into a pair of plane service courts each extending throughout the width of the board, and also having parallel marginal means along the full length of the opposite sides of the board toward the players disposed below the path of a normally served or returned ball for deflecting the ball out of play, said marginal means comprising low barriers projecting upwardly from said sides of the board.

2. In a game adapted to be played with a ball and paddles or the like for keeping the ball in play, a board engageable by a ball during play and disposable substantially in the plane of the feet of the players having an unobstructed plane playing area on its upper surface, means substantially in the plane of the upper board surface for dividing the latter transversely into a pair of plane service courts each extending throughout the width of the board, and also having parallel marginal means along the full length of the opposite sides of the board toward the players disposed below the path of a normally served or returned ball for deflecting the ball out of play, said marginal means comprising low nets projecting upwardly from said sides of the board.

WALTER K. YOUNGBERG.