May 5, 1936. E. S. HAYDEN 2,039,794

BASKETBALL PRACTICE RING

Filed Dec. 9, 1935

Fig. 1.

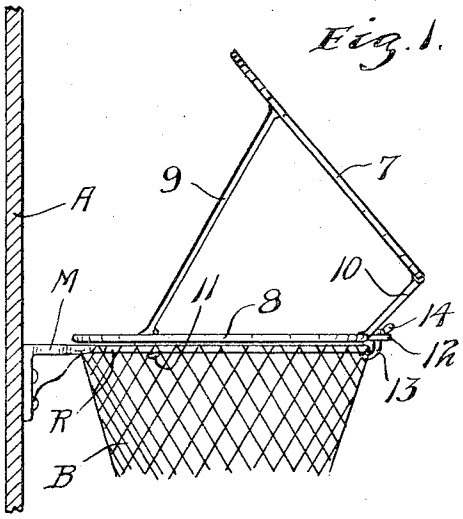


Fig. 3.

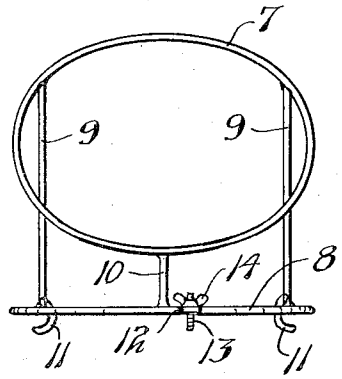


Fig. 2.

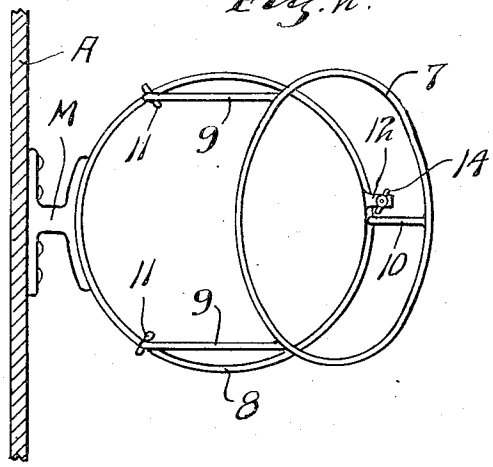


Fig. 6.

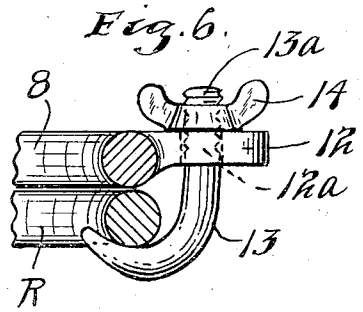


Fig. 5.

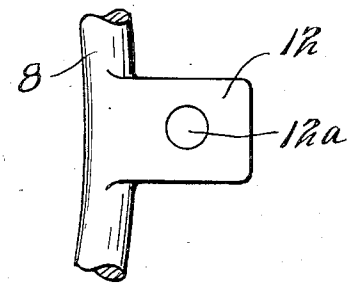
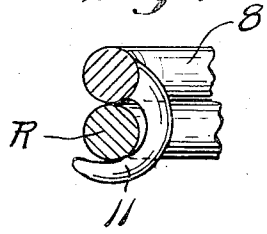


Fig. 4.



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BASKETBALL PRACTICE RING

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10 Claims. (Cl. 273—1.5)

My invention relates to athletic game apparatus and particularly to baskets for the game of basketball.

As is well known, members of basketball teams require and usually carry on considerable practice in throwing a basketball into an elevated basket. It is desirable that basketball players develop a high degree of accuracy in so throwing the ball from various locations on the basketball floor that the ball will drop into the basket. The degree of accuracy with which the thrown ball reaches the basket depends considerably on the degree of arch in the curved path of the ball through the air.

A general object of my invention is to provide means for use in basketball practice to increase the speed and efficiency with which players may acquire the ability to properly arch the path through which they throw a basketball into a basket.

A more specific object is to provide an auxiliary ring supported above a basketball basket supporting ring at an acute angle thereto whereby players may throw a ball through both the auxiliary ring and the basket supporting ring.

Another object is to provide such an auxiliary ring which may be turned relative to the basket supporting ring so as to face in various directions.

Still another object is to provide such an auxiliary ring which may be quickly and easily attached to or detached from a basket supporting ring and whose attachment means is such as to require no modification of the basket supporting ring.

A further object is to provide such an auxiliary ring of rugged, simple and inexpensive construction.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be more fully set forth in the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views, and in which:—

Fig. 1 is a side view of a basketball basket and back board with my auxiliary ring operatively associated therewith;

Fig. 2 is a top view;

Fig. 3 is a front view of my auxiliary ring when not associated with a basket supporting ring, and

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are detail views of the means by which my auxiliary ring is attached to a basket supporting ring.

Referring to the drawing, I have shown a basketball basket B, a basket supporting ring R and a vertical backboard A, all of which are of conventional construction and of which the ring R is supported from the forward face of the backboard A in a horizontal plane by means of a mounting bracket M secured to and projecting forwardly from the backboard A as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

My device includes an auxiliary ring 7 substantially similar in diameter to the basket supporting ring R and supported in general thereabove at an acute angle thereto by suitable supporting means. Preferably the lower forward portion of the auxiliary ring 7 is disposed a moderate distance above and forwardly of the forward portion of the basket supporting ring R as shown.

While the device may be constructed and used with an acute angle between the auxiliary ring 7 and the basket supporting ring R of various numbers of angular degrees it has been found preferable that this angle be approximately 57 degrees.

Supporting means is provided for the auxiliary ring 7 enabling rapid and easy placement of the auxiliary ring 7 into and out of its normal operative association with the basket supporting ring R and permitting bodily adjustive rotation of the inclined auxiliary ring 7 relative to the basket supporting ring R about a vertical axis preferably centered relative to the basket supporting ring R. While various types of supporting means may be devised to meet the above stated requirements, I have shown a supporting means particularly well suited for use as a part of my device.

My auxiliary ring supporting means includes a mounting ring 8 adapted to normally rest upon the basket supporting ring R and approximately similar thereto in dimensions. Connecting elements 9 and 10 extend between respective corresponding points on the auxiliary ring 7 and the mounting ring 8 and are secured at their respective ends to the rings 7 and 8 by suitable means such as welding or brazing.

Means is provided for retaining the mounting ring in the position thereof relative to the basket supporting ring previously described. To this end the rear half of the mounting ring 8 is provided at each of respective circumferentially spaced points thereon with an element, such as the element 11, shown in Fig. 4, for engaging the basket supporting ring R. The element 11 consists of a curved claw-like hook projecting from the inner side of the mounting ring 8 first inwardly, then downwardly and finally outwardly, as shown. The proportions of the hook 11 are such that a portion of the basket supporting ring

R may be received between the lower side of the ring R and the upper side of the outwardly projecting portion of the hook 11 with but slight clearance.

The forwardmost portion of the mounting ring 8, closely adjacent the connecting element 10, is provided with means for detachably securing said portion of the mounting ring 8 to a portion of the basket supporting ring R registering therewith. For this purpose an outwardly projecting lug 12, having a vertical aperture 12a therethrough is formed on the mounting ring 8 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. The screw-threaded shank 13a of a hook 13 extends upwardly through the aperture 13a and carries a thumbnut on the portion thereof projecting above the lug 12. The hook 13 is shaped and proportioned for engagement with the lower side of a portion of the basket supporting ring R so that drawing up of the thumbnut 14 will pull the hook 13 upwardly to clamp the rings 8 and R together.

When the thumbnut 14 is loosened slightly the described clamping effect is eliminated to permit rotation of the ring 8 relative to the ring R about the common vertical axis thereof.

When the thumbnut 14 is loosened further the hook 13 may be swung to a position wherein no portion thereof underlies the ring R, thus permitting upward and/or forward movement of the forward portion of the ring 8 relative to the ring R for purposes of removal. Forward movement of the ring 8, of course, withdraws the rear hooks 11 from engagement with the ring R whereby the ring 8 is completely free of the ring R for removal therefrom.

The purpose of my device in normal use thereof in basketball practice is to tend to force a player to so throw a ball that the arched path thereof toward the ring R will have such a degree of arch that the ball will pass first through the auxiliary ring 7 and then through the basket supporting ring R. It has been found that a degree of arch enabling a ball to pass through both of the rings 7 and R as described may be rapidly attained by a player by practicing with the aid of my device and that use of such a degree of arch greatly improves the accuracy with which a player may drop a ball through the ring R after my device has been removed from the ring R.

As previously described, loosening of the thumbnut 14 enables adjustive rotation of the mounting ring 8 so that the auxiliary ring 7 may be faced in various directions and thus enable practice in throwing the ball from various positions on the basketball floor.

It is apparent that I have invented a novel, simple, rugged, inexpensive and effective device for use in basketball practice and which may be readily and easily attached to, detached from and adjustively rotated on the usual basket supporting ring.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, details, proportions and arrangement of the parts without departing from the scope of my invention, which, generally stated, consists in a device capable of carrying out the objects above set forth, and in the novel parts and combinations of parts disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:—

1. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring, an auxiliary ring and means supporting said auxiliary ring in general above said supporting ring in a plane disposed at an acute angle from the plane of said supporting ring.

2. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring and back board, an auxiliary ring disposed in general above said supporting ring and in a plane sloping downwardly and in general forwardly relative to the plane of said board and means for supporting said auxiliary ring.

3. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring and back board, an auxiliary ring and means supporting said auxiliary ring from said supporting ring in general thereabove and in a plane sloping downwardly and in general forwardly relative to the plane of said back board.

4. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring and backboard, an auxiliary ring disposed in general above said supporting ring at an acute angle relative thereto and supporting means for said sloping auxiliary ring so arranged that said sloping ring is adjustably rotatable relative to said supporting ring about a vertical axis.

5. The structure defined in claim 4 and said vertical axis being located centrally of said supporting ring.

6. The structure defined in claim 4 and releasable means for holding said sloping ring in any adjusted position thereof.

7. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring, a mounting ring generally similar in size to said supporting ring and resting thereupon, means normally preventing lateral shifting and permitting adjustive rotation of said mounting ring relative to said supporting ring and an auxiliary ring supported from said mounting ring and disposed in general thereabove at an acute angle thereto.

8. The structure defined in claim 7 and releasable means for securing said mounting ring in an adjusted position relative to said supporting ring.

9. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring, a mounting ring generally similar in size to said supporting ring and adapted to be placed thereon for support therefrom, releasable means for securing said mounting ring to said supporting ring, and an auxiliary ring supported from said mounting ring and disposed in general thereabove at an acute angle thereto.

10. In combination with a basketball basket supporting ring, a mounting ring generally similar in size to said supporting ring and adapted to be placed thereon for support therefrom, an anchoring element at each of circumferentially spaced points on the rear half of one of said rings extending from the inner side of said one of the rings generally vertically past the other of said rings and then rearwardly for receiving and partially encircling a portion of said other ring, clamping means at the forward portions of said rings for releasably securing said portions to each other and an auxiliary ring supported from said mounting ring and disposed in general thereabove at an acute angle thereto.

EDWARD S. HAYDEN.