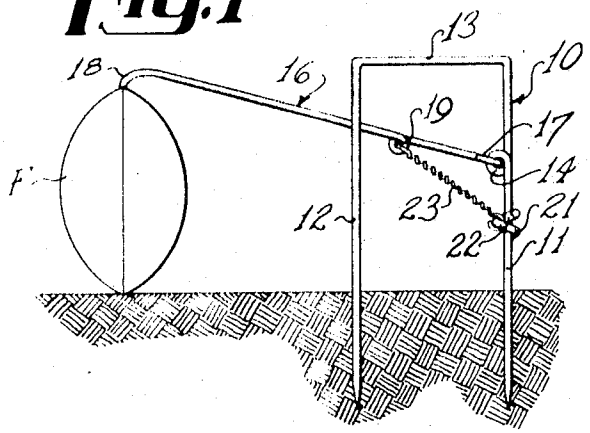
Aug. 19, 1969 W. L. SHIRLEY ET AL 3,462,145

FOOTBALL KICKING TEE

Filed June 13, 1966

Fig. 1



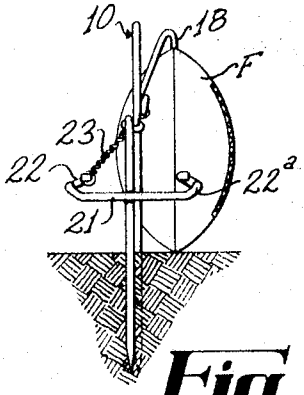


Fig. 3

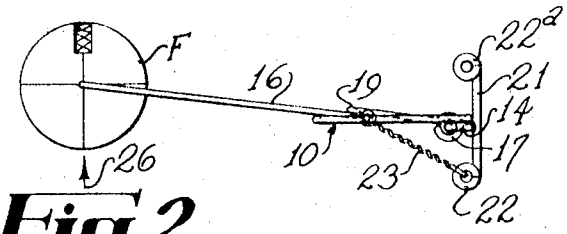


Fig. 2

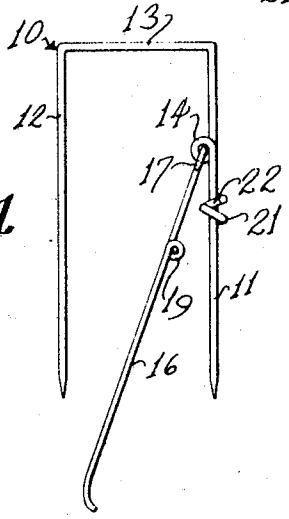


Fig. 4

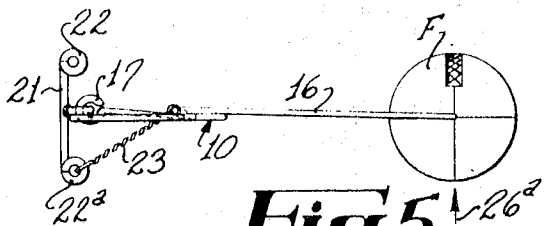


Fig. 5

INVENTOR.
William L. Shirley
Henry L. Lee
Jeff D. Brantly
By Jennings Carter & Thompson
Att'ys

United States Patent Office 3,462,145 Patented Aug. 19, 1969

3,462,145

FOOTBALL KICKING TEE

William L. Shirley and Henry L. Lee, both of Union Springs, Ala. 36089, and Jeff D. Brantly, 3143 Cloverdale Road, Montgomery, Ala. 36106

Filed June 13, 1966, Ser. No. 557,147
Int. Cl. A63b 67/00
U.S. Cl. 273—55 2 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A football holder which may be used for right and left-footed kickers comprising a football holding arm secured to one leg of a staple-like frame, the arm being movable from one side of that one leg of the frame, to the opposite side thereof, thus converting from right to left football holding position.

Our invention relates to an improved device for holding footballs in kicking position.

An object of our invention is to provide a simple, fully effective device by means of which a football may be held in generally upright position for practice kicking extra points and field goals.

More specifically, our invention contemplates a device of the character designated which, by simple rearrangement may selectively be employed for holding the ball in position for kicking by either right footed or left footed kickers.

Another object of our invention is to provide a football holder which consists essentially of a staple-like frame, the vertical legs of which are adapted to be stuck into the ground, the football holding arm being disposed to extend outwardly of the frame, generally in the same plane occupied by the vertical legs of the frame, together with a spring which biases the arm downwardly, whereby the ball is held firmly but displaceably between the outer end of the arm and the ground on which the ball rests.

A more detailed object is to provide a football holder in which the frame itself may be integrally formed of a single length of wire, the pivotal connection for the arm being a simple loop formed in one leg of the frame, the arm itself being loosely pivotally connected by in turn forming a loop in its end which passes through the loop in the leg, together with a cross member secured to the leg in which the loop is formed and below the same, whereby a tension spring may selectively be connected to opposite ends of the cross member and to the arm, thus permitting the device to be arranged for right and left footed kickers, as will hereinafter appear.

A device illustrating features of our invention is shown in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application in which:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view showing the device holding a football in position for kicking by a right footed kicker;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the device set up as shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an end elevational view of the device shown in FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating the method of converting the device from right to left footed kicking position; and

FIG. 5 is a view corresponding to FIG. 2 and showing the device holding a football in position for kicking by a left footed kicker.

Referring now to the drawings for a better understanding of our invention, we show in FIG. 1 a frame indicated generally by the numeral **10** and which generally described and illustrated may be in the form of an enlarged staple. Thus, the frame may embody the legs **11** and **12**, adapted

to be stuck into the ground generally in vertical position, and a base portion **13**. The entire frame may be formed integrally of a single length of wire of about one-quarter inch diameter.

In one leg of the frame, namely, the leg farthest away from the ball, we provided a loop indicated at **14**. The holding arm indicated generally by the numeral **16** embodies a loop **17** at its end which passes through the loop **14**, whereby the arm **16** is loosely pivoted to the leg **11**, for movement in horizontal and vertical planes through considerable arcs. The arm is provided with a downturned, outer end portion **18** adapted to engage the upper end of a football F resting on the ground, thereby to hold the ball in proper kicking position as will later appear.

Intermediate its ends arm **16** which, incidentally, may also be formed of an integral length of wire, is provided with a loop **19**. The loop **19** preferably is formed in the arm **16** at a point outwardly of the loop **17** a distance not exceeding the width between the legs **11** and **12**.

Secured to the leg **11**, at a point below the loop **14** therein, is a cross member **21**. The cross member may be provided with eyes or loops **22** and **22a** in its ends. A tension member such as a spring or rubber band **23** has one end connected to the loop **19** and is disposed for selective connection to the loops **22** or **22a**.

In use and for holding a ball for kicking by a right footed kicker, the device is set up as shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. Thus, the kicker approaches the ball, for right hand kicking, in the direction of the arrow **26**, FIG. 2. Therefore, with the ball in position on the ground and the end **18** of arm **16** resting on the upper end of the ball, it will be apparent that spring **23** biases the arm downwardly, whereby the ball is held in proper kicking position. As the kicker strikes the ball with his foot, approaching it from the direction **26**, the arm **16** is free to pivot in the kicking direction due to the loose connection afforded by the loops **14** and **17**. Thus, the kicking arm is fully effective to hold the ball, but in no way impedes the passage of the kicker's foot and leg in the place in which the ball is held, thus effectively simulating the holding of the ball by the finger of another player.

As shown in FIG. 4 the device is easily and quickly converted to left foot kicking. This is done simply by moving the arm **16** to the opposite side of leg **12** by pivoting the arm downwardly to pass under the pointed end of leg **12** and by setting the device up as shown in FIG. 5. Of course, a left footed kicker approaches the ball as shown in FIG. 5 from the direction **26a**.

It will be noted that when the device is converted from the right position to the left position, the end of the spring **23** is removed from the loop **22** and placed in the loop **22a**. Further, in either position it will be noted that the spring **23** holds the arm **16** in contact with the side of the leg **12**, the leg in either position thus acting as a stop to prevent the spring from pivoting the arm toward the direction from which the kicker approaches the ball.

In view of the foregoing it will be apparent that we have devised an improved, simple and fully effective holder for positioning and holding a footbally for kicking While we have shown the football as being positioned essentially upright or vertical, nevertheless it will be apparent that the ball may be tilted to precisely the angle desired by the individual kicker. Our device is as fully effective to hold the ball in tilted position as to hold it in upright position. Further, the device is extremely economical to manufacture since it may be made essentially of three pieces of sturdy wire, namely, frame **10**, arm **16** and cross member **21**. The cross member **21** may be secured to the leg **11** in any desired manner as by spot welding.

While we have shown our invention in but one form it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so

limited, but is susceptible of various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof.

What we claim is:

1. In a football kicking holder,

(a) a stable-like frame having legs adapted to be stuck into the ground,

(b) an elongated football holding arm loosely pivotally connected at one end to one of said legs and disposed for its outer end to rest on the upper end of an upright football placed on the ground, the holding arm extending outwardly generally in the plane in which the legs of the frame lie and being disposed to lie alongside of and in contact with the leg nearest the football being held,

(c) a cross member secured to the frame leg to which the holding arm is pivoted and located beneath the pivot point thereof,

(d) a tension member having one end secured to the holding arm intermediate its ends and the other end selectively connectible to the cross member, whereby the arm is biased downwardly onto the ball, thus to hold it in said upright kicking position, and

(e) said cross member extending normally of the plane in which the legs lie and having means adjacent its ends for anchoring one end of said spring, whereby the arm may be positioned on either side of the leg alongside which it lies and the spring may be selectively anchored to either end of the cross member, thus permitting the device to hold a football for left or right footed kickers.

2. A football kicking holder as defined in claim 1 in which the stable-like frame consists of a single length of wire, in which said holding arm consists of a length of wire, there being loops formed in one leg of said frame and in one end of said arm, which loops are interconnected thus to form the pivot point for the arm relative to said leg, said arm having a loop intermediate its ends for anchoring an end of said spring, said cross member being in the form of a length of wire having a loop in each end for selectively anchoring the opposite end of said spring, said pivotal connection formed by the loops in the end of said arm and the loop in said leg permitting the arm to pivot downwardly to pass beneath the lower end of the leg of the frame opposite the one to which it is pivoted, whereby the device may be used selectively for right and left footed kicking of the ball being held by it.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

834,211	10/1906	Linderman	124—43
852,123	4/1907	Leggett	124—43
3,105,686	10/1963	Elsea.	

RICHARD C. PINKHAM, Primary Examiner

THEATRICE BROWN, Assistant Examiner