March 20, 1956 L. VALLIERES 2,738,976

TENNIS RAQUET

Filed March 8, 1954

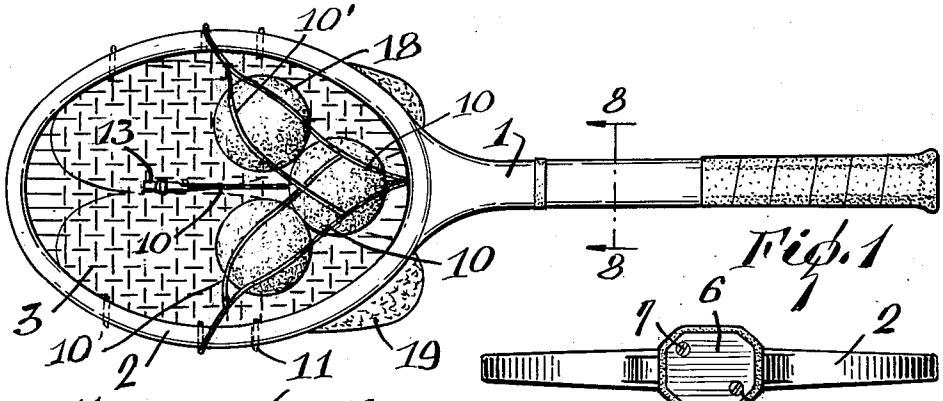


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

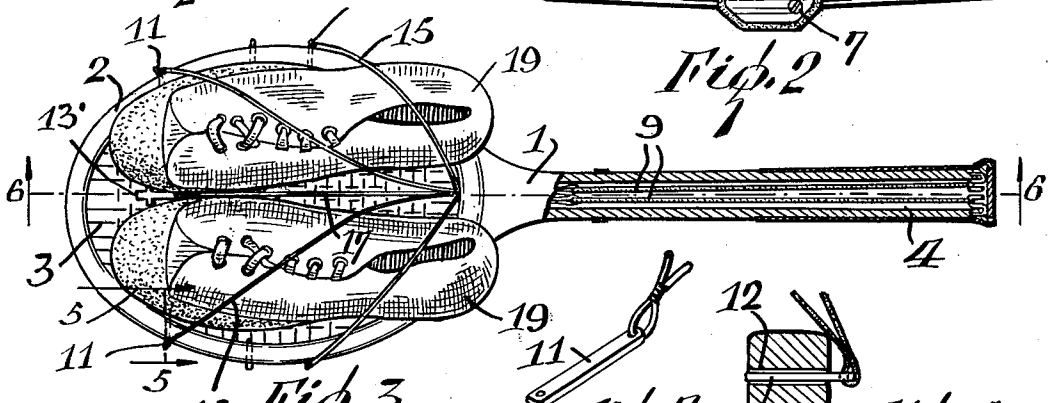


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

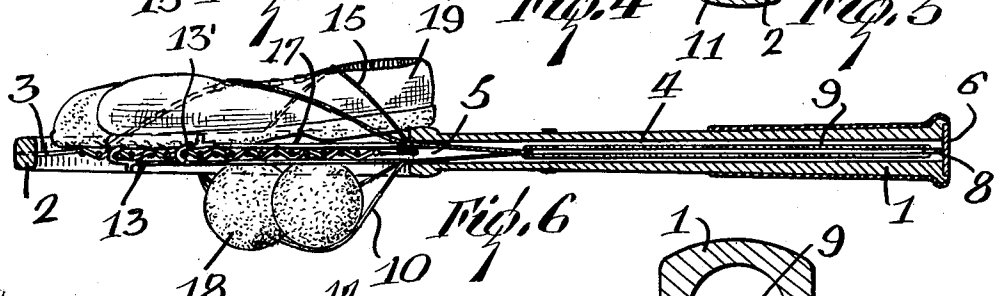


Fig. 6

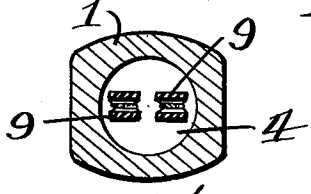


Fig. 8

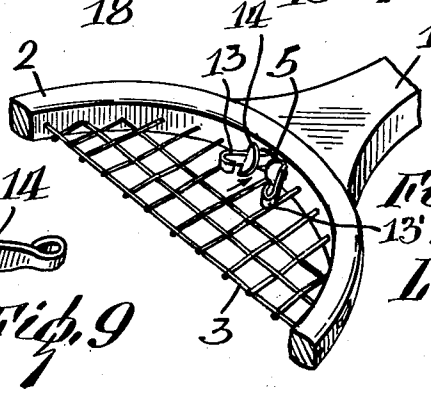


Fig. 7

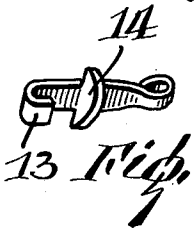


Fig. 9

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TENNIS RAQUET

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—73)

The present invention pertains to a novel tennis raquet.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a raquet with means for holding tennis balls and shoes against the surfaces of the strung web, so that these articles will not be lost or misplaced. Another object is to provide such means in the form of cords that are retracted by elastics into the handle when not in use. Still another object is to provide a simple and economical construction for the purposes set forth.

In the accomplishment of these objects, the handle of the raquet is hollow and contains elastics to which are joined two sets of cords extending to opposite surfaces of the frame. The free ends of the cords, except one on each side of the frame, carry fingers insertable in the sides of the frame. The remaining two cords are longitudinal and carry hooks that attach to the web. Each set of cords forms a network adapted to hold the tennis balls and the shoes to the surfaces of the web.

The cords when not in use are drawn by the elastics into the handle. The hooks carry guards that prevent their passing through the frame into the handle; yet, the retracted hooks do not interfere with play.

The invention is fully disclosed by way of example in the following description and in the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of the device;

Figure 2 is an end view;

Figure 3 is an opposite side view;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of one of the fingers;

Figure 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is a section on the line 6—6 of Figure 3;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the center part of the raquet;

Figure 8 is a section on the line 8—8 of Figure 1; and

Figure 9 is a perspective view of one of the hooks.

Reference to these views will now be made by use of like characters which are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout.

Figures 1, 3 and 6 show the entire raquet comprised of a handle **1** and an oval frame **2** at one end containing the gut strings **3**. The handle **1** is hollow at **4** from its free end to an opening **5** formed in the frame. The free end of the handle is closed by a disk **6** held by two screws **7** (Figure 2).

On the inner surface of the disk **6** is a ring **8** through which are passed two endless elastic bands **9** at one end. At the other end one of the bands is joined to three cords **10**, two of which diverge to the sides of the frame at one surface of the web, as shown in Figure 1. The free

ends of two cords **10** carry fingers **11** inserted in slots **12** in the sides of the frame **2**. These cords **10** are cross-connected by intersecting cords **10'**, and the central cord **10** carries a hook **13** at its free end.

The free end of the remaining elastic **9** is attached to a set of four cords **15** and a longitudinal cord **17** at the opposite surface of the web. These cords diverge to the sides of the frame where they are fitted with additional retaining fingers **11**. Cord **17** carries at its free end a hook **13'** similar to that carried by central cord **10** that attaches to the web.

As shown in Figure 1, the cords **10** and **10'** hold a number of tennis balls **18** against one side of the web. On the other side of the web, a pair of shoes **19** is held by the cords **15**, **17**. The tension of the elastics **9** holds the several cords taut on the objects.

The balls are removed by withdrawing the corresponding fingers **11** from their slots **12**. The shoes are removed in like manner accompanied by disengaging the hook **13'** from the web. The cords are pulled by the elastics until the hooks are stopped at the back of the frame by the guards **14**. The raquet may then be used in play since the cords are now entirely within the handle. For further use, the cords are readily drawn out by their hooks.

Although a specific embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described, it will be understood that various alterations in the details of construction may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as indicated by the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A tennis raquet comprising a handle, a frame at one end thereof, and a strung web in said frame; a pair of elastics mounted lengthwise in said handle, said elastics having one end secured to the outer end of said handle, two sets of cords attached respectively to the inner ends of said elastics and passing through said handle respectively to opposite surfaces of said web, hooks on the free ends of some of said cords adapted for attachment to said web, and means for releasably attaching the remaining cords to the sides of said frame.

2. A tennis raquet comprising a handle, a frame at one end thereof, and a strung web in said frame; a pair of elastics mounted lengthwise in said handle, said elastics having one end secured to the outer end of said handle, two sets of cords attached respectively to the inner ends of said elastics and passing through said handle respectively to opposite surfaces of said web, hooks on the free ends of some of said cords adapted for attachment to said web, and fingers on the free ends of the remaining cords and adapted for insertion in the sides of said frame.

3. In a tennis raquet as set forth in claim 1, guards on said hooks for obstructing passage of said hooks into said handle.

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