Jan. 12, 1954 H. E. GRAY 2,665,908

TABLE TENNIS BAT

Filed March 21, 1952

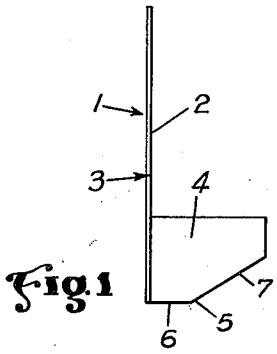


Fig. 1

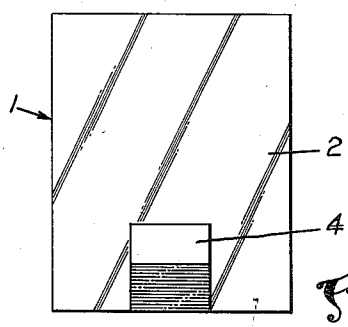


Fig. 2

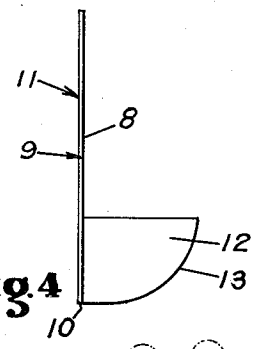


Fig. 4

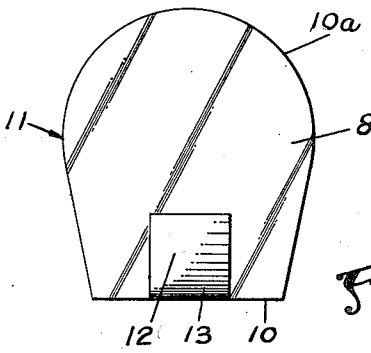


Fig. 3

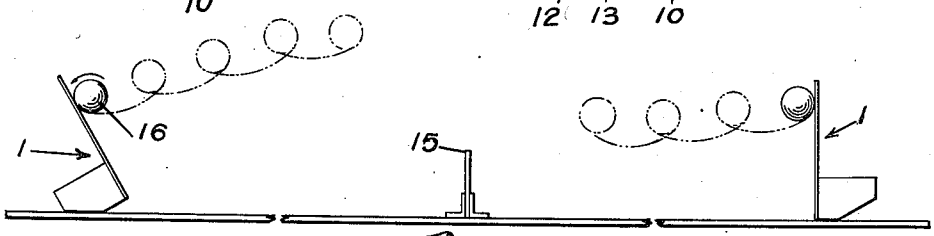


Fig. 5

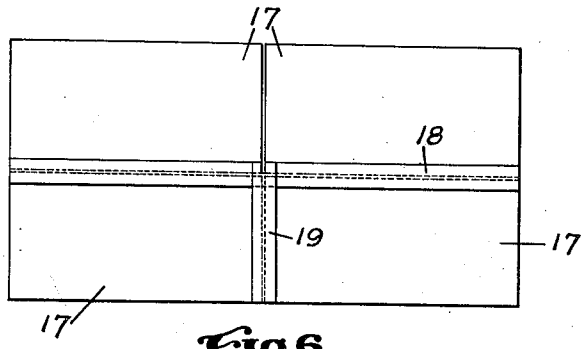


Fig. 6

INVENTOR

Howard E. Gray

BY Alex. H. MacRae

Attorney.

Patented Jan. 12, 1954

2,665,908

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,665,908

TABLE TENNIS BAT

Howard E. Gray, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Application March 21, 1952, Serial No. 277,849

6 Claims. (Cl. 273—76)

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This invention relates to games and playing devices therefor.

An object of the invention is to provide a playing device with which a novel game involving exceptional interest and skill may be played.

Another object is to provide a playing device with which a game of the type of table tennis may be played but which game may be played on a considerably smaller surface and with a player area of much more limited extent.

Another object is to provide a game of the type mentioned which is of relatively simple manufacture and low cost.

The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a device in accordance with the invention,

Figure 2 is a rear elevation of the device,

Figure 3 is a rear elevation of a modified form of playing device,

Figure 4 is a side elevation of the device shown in Figure 3,

Figure 5 is a side elevation of a game assembly, and

Figure 6 is a bottom plan view of a game board.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, the playing device comprises a ball propelling member or bat generally indicated at 1. The bat comprises a flat, rigid body 2 constructed of any suitable material such as wood, plastic, metal, plywood, or the like. The body presents a wholly flat, rigid, forward or ball-engaging surface 3. As shown, the peripheral shape of the body 2 is rectangular but it may vary within wide limits. A handle 4 is fixed to the rear surface of the body in any suitable manner.

The handle extends in a rearward, angular direction with respect to the face 3 and in this regard differs considerably from the ordinary bat in which the handle lies in the same or parallel plane as the ball-engaging face. As shown, the handle comprises a generally rectangular block fixed at one end to the body 2. The block is located midway between the side edges of the body 2 and has a bottom face 5, lying in a plane which is in angular relation but parallel to the plane of face 3. Bottom face 5 also preferably has at least two surface portions 6 and 7 lying in angular relation to each other. At least one portion 6 is disposed beyond the peripheral confines of the body member 2, or in other words, the portion 6 lies in a plane which is substantially coincident with the plane of the lower edge of body 2 or lies outwardly thereof. As shown, the surface 6 is flat, adjacent and perpendicular to

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face 3, and the surface 7 is flat, contiguous and at angle of approximately 30° to surface 5. Also, as shown, the area of surface 7 is at least as great as that of surface 6.

Referring to Figures 3 and 4, a somewhat modified form of playing device wherein the flat, rigid body 8 of a bat 11 has a forward ball-engaging surface 9, straight lower edge 10 and a curved upper edge 11. A handle 12 is similar to handle 4 but has a curved bottom face 13, the lowermost edge of which is in adjoining aligned relation with edge 10.

While the dimensions of the device may vary substantially, a satisfactory size of surface 3 or 9 is seven inches high by five inches wide overall, and of block 4 or 12, two inches high by two inches wide by three inches long. For practical purposes, the surface 3 or 9 should not be substantially less than four inches wide and six inches high.

The device is adapted to be used to play a table tennis type of game, as diagrammatically illustrated in Figure 5, in which 14 is a game board or table provided with suitable markings and having a rigid or semi-rigid ball-engageable barrier or "net" 15 mounted thereon in transversely extending relation. The game is played with a small sponge rubber or like ball 16. The net is preferably only about 1½ inches high so that the top edge portion of the bat is well above the net when a bottom portion thereof is resting on the table.

The bats are not held freely in the hand as in ordinary table tennis but are pushed along the table or game board surface on the bottom face 5 or 13. The faces 6 and 7 of bat 1 provide a choice of two fixed angular relations of the ball-engaging surface 3, i. e. one at 90° and one at 60° with respect to the game board top, as a result of which a considerable range of control of ball manipulation is possible When the ball is engaged by the surface at a 60° angle, it is directed upwardly but because of back spin imparted thereto, as illustrated, its distance of travel and bounce in the opposite court is restricted. When the ball is engaged by the surface at a 90° angle, it has a lower flight whereby it is adapted to just clear the net with greater speed and less distance of travel.

As players become expert at the game, various other angular inclinations of the surface 5 may be attained by tilting the bat on one of the corners of surfaces 6 or 7, the bat of course resting on the board top at all times. The bat 11 has been

designed for expert players, who may choose at will the angular relation of surface 9 simply by rocking the bat on the curved bottom face 13.

It will be apparent that the device will result in a highly entertaining adaptation of the table tennis game and one in which the opportunity for development of skilful play is outstanding.

One of the most important features of the game is that it can be played on a surface of restricted area. Thus, a game board or table top of 7 feet by 2½ feet is quite sufficient area for play. Moreover, since the bats are never removed from the playing surface during play, the player never has to move more than a foot or so away from the playing surface. Thus, only a relatively small amount of player area space is required.

Figure 6 illustrates a suitable type of folding game board which may be employed for the game. As shown, the board comprises four similar sections 17, a flexible tape or the like 18 hingedly joining the sections together along their longitudinal adjoining edges, and a flexible tape or the like 19 hingedly joining the adjoining end edges of two of the sections. It will be apparent that such a board may be folded into a space roughly one quarter of its normal length and width.

The bat may also be constructed for folding or dissembly purposes to facilitate packing or storage. Thus, the handle may be detachable from the body, and the body may be formed in two or more hinged parts.

What is claimed is:

1. A game playing device for sliding movement on a game playing surface comprising a flat sheet having top, bottom and side edges, a rear face and a flat, forward, ball-engageable face, and a handle for manual reception rigidly fixed to said rear face, said handle having top and bottom faces and side hand-engaging surfaces each extending continuously between said top and bottom faces, said handle having an overall width which is but a minor portion of the overall width of said sheet and being located midway between said side edges of the sheet, said handle having

an overall height which is but a minor portion of the overall height of said sheet, said bottom face of the handle being flat in transverse contour and having a surface portion adjacent said bottom edge of the sheet and lying in a plane unobstructed by said sheet for free sliding engagement with said game playing surface, said forward face of the sheet lying at an angle to said plane not greater than 90°.

2. A game playing device as defined in claim 1, said bottom surface portion being flat in longitudinal contour, said bottom face having a second flat surface portion lying in angular, contiguous relation to said first surface portion.

3. A game playing device as defined in claim 1, said bottom surface portion being flat in longitudinal contour and in substantially perpendicular relation to said forward face of the sheet.

4. A game playing device as defined in claim 1, said bottom surface portion being continuously curved in longitudinal contour.

5. A game playing device as defined in claim 1, said bottom surface portion lying in a plane substantially coincident with the plane of said bottom edge of the sheet.

6. A game playing device as defined in claim 1, said forward face of the sheet having a width not substantially less than four inches and not substantially more than five inches, and a height not substantially less than six inches and not substantially more than seven inches.

HOWARD E. GRAY.

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