Oct. 20, 1925. 1,557,751

W. H. WINKS

TOY BALL

Filed July 2, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

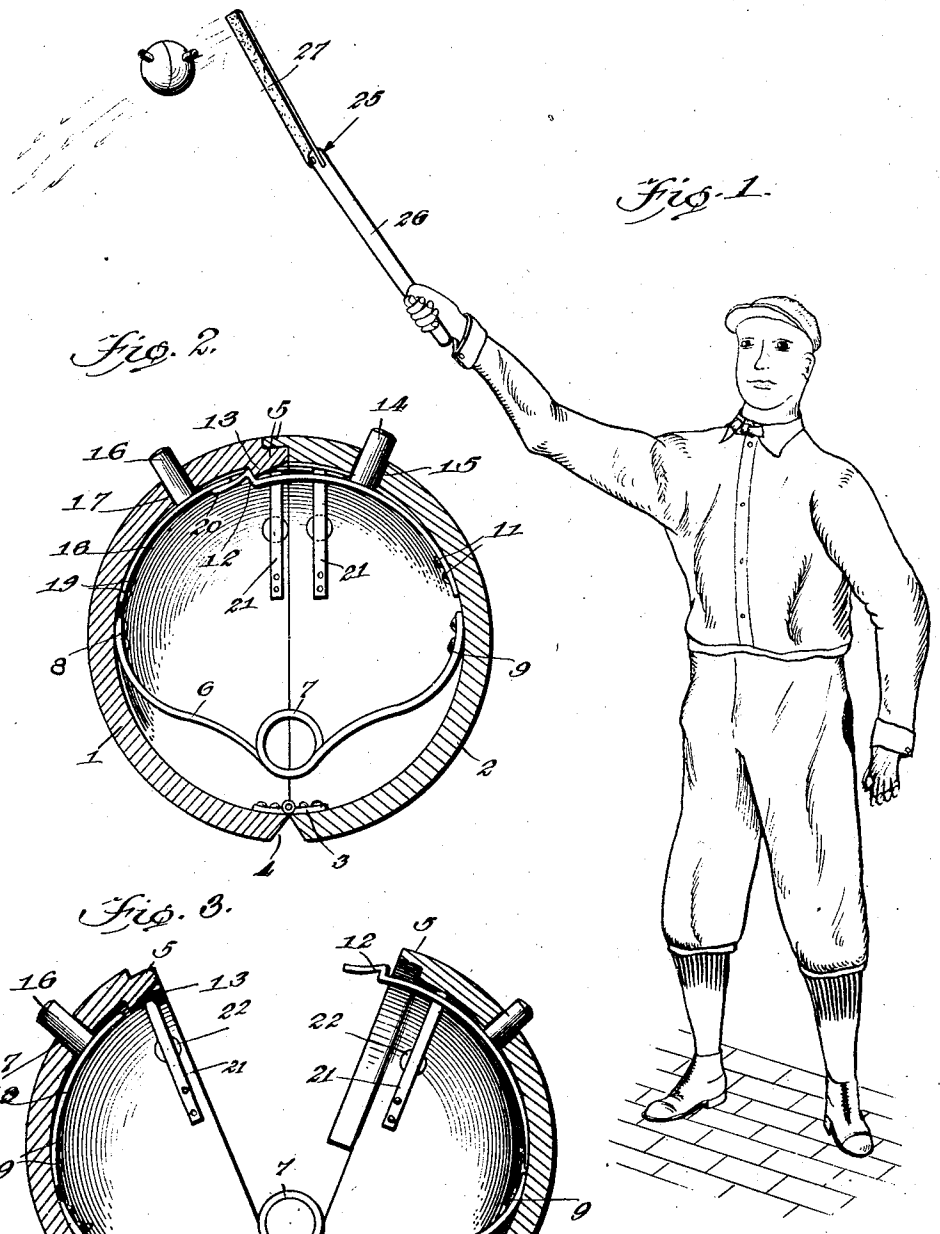


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

INVENTOR

Walter H. Winks,

BY

ATTORNEYS

Oct. 20, 1925. 1,557,751

W. H. WINKS

TOY BALL

Filed July 2, 1925 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4.

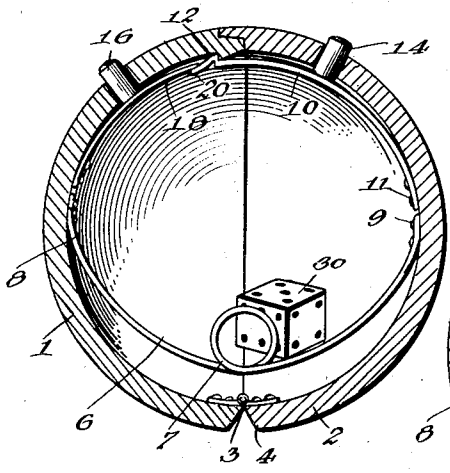


Fig. 5.

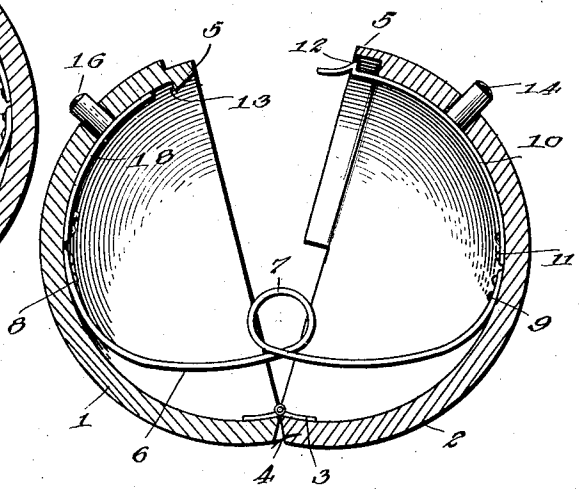


Fig. 6.

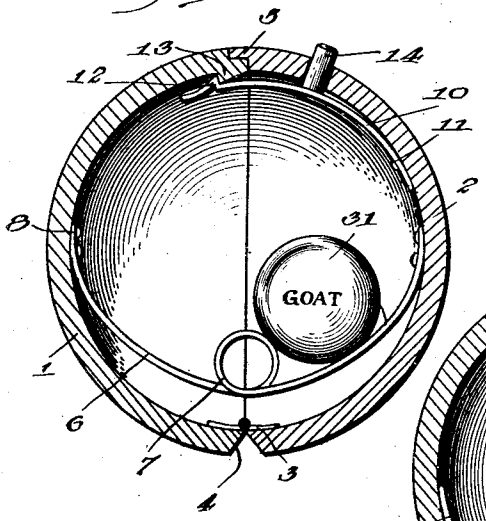
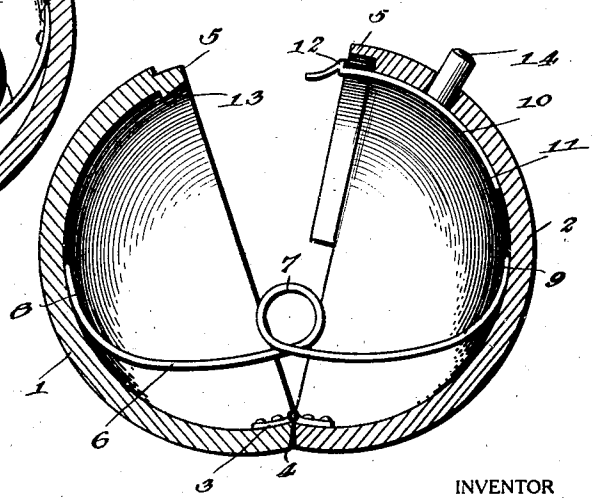


Fig. 7.



WITNESSES

Laurence D. Hankins

INVENTOR

Walter H. Winks,

BY Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS

Patented Oct. 20, 1925. 1,557,751

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER H. WINKS, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM M. PARLETT, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

TOY BALL.

Application filed July 2, 1925. Serial No. 41,151.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER H. WINKS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Baltimore, State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toy Balls, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in toy balls adapted when bounced or batted to partake of startling and amusing movements whereby to render the games played with the ball highly entertaining and amusing.

Accordingly the present invention consists in the provision of a ball made up of a number of hinged sections releasably secured to each other and adapted to fly apart when certain portions of the ball are batted or struck.

A further object resides in the provision of a device of this character which is of simple and durable construction, reliable in operation and easy and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages reside in certain novel features of the construction, arrangement and combination of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a ball constructed in accordance with the present invention being batted,

Figure 2 is a sectional view of the ball illustrated in Fig. 1,

Figure 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing the sections of the ball spread apart,

Figure 4 is a sectional view showing a slightly modified form of ball with the sections thereof closed,

Figure 5 is a view showing the ball illustrated in Fig. 4 with the sections thereof spread apart,

Figure 6 is a sectional view illustrating another form of the invention and showing the sections closed, and

Figure 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6 but illustrating the sections spread apart.

Referring to the drawings it will be seen that the ball in all embodiments of the invention comprises a pair of hemispherical sections, designated at 1 and 2, the sections 1 and 2 being shell-like and adapted when placed together to form a hollow spherical ball. A hinge 3 is provided for pivotally connecting the sections 1 and 2 to each other and adjacent the hinge the sections are beveled or cut away, as at 4, to permit the sections of the ball to fly apart as illustrated in Figs. 3, 5 and 7. Opposite the hinge the sections of the ball are formed with interfitting parts or shoulders, designated at 5, the shoulders 5 insuring proper alignment of the sections and preventing one section from overlapping the other when the sections are closed. The shoulders extend only part way around the sections.

Spring means is provided to bias the sections 1 and 2 to open position wherein they are spread apart as illustrated in Figs. 3, 5 and 7 and this spring means preferably comprises a resilient or spring member 6 having a coil 7 intermediate its ends and having its ends secured, as at 8 and 9, to the sections 1 and 2, respectively. When the sections 1 and 2 are brought together the spring member 6 is flexed and tensioned, as illustrated in Figs. 2, 4 and 6.

Releasable means is provided for holding the sections 1 and 2 closed and this means consists of a resilient catch 10 having one end secured, as at 11, to the section 2 and having a tooth 12 engageable with a tooth or inwardly extending projection 13 formed on the section 1. The catch 10 is released by means of a plunger 14 secured to the catch between its ends and projecting exteriorly of the ball through an opening 15 provided therefor in section 2.

With this arrangement when the ball is batted or bounced it will act as an ordinary ball until the plunger 14 is struck by the bat or hits the surface on which the ball is bounced whereupon the sections of the ball will fly apart in a startling and entertaining manner.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 4 and 5 and in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 the catch may be released not only by the plunger 14 but also by a plunger 16 operating through an opening 17 in section 1 and connected to a release arm 18 fastened, as at 19, to the section 1 and having its other end engageable with the end portion 20 of the catch 10. The end of the release arm 18 which engages the portion 20 of the catch 10 is disposed between the portion 20 and the adjacent sur-

face of the section 1. The release arm 18 is made of resilient metal and is tensioned to lie snug against the inner surface of the section 1.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 additional release arms and plungers for operating the arms are provided, the additional release arms being designated at 21 and being engageable with the catch 10 between its tooth 12 and its point of attachment 11. To each release arm 21 a plunger 22 is connected, the plungers 22 projecting exteriorly of the shell-like sections on which they are mounted. As in the case of the other release arms, the release arms 21 are made of resilient metal and each has one end fastened to its section and its other end engageable with the catch and disposed between the catch and the adjacent portion of the section on which it is mounted.

The ball may be bounced or batted and when batted it may be desirable to employ a bat, designated generally at 25 (see Fig. 1) and including a handle 26 and a striker 27 of leather or the like.

In conjunction with the balls an inner loose member may be employed and may take the form of a dice 30 or a small ball 31 as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 6, respectively. The dice is used when the game is played by bouncing the ball on a table or the like and is especially designed for use indoors. When the player having possession of the ball bounces the same and succeeds in causing the sections thereof to fly apart the dice will roll out and he will score the number of points presented on the uppermost face of the dice.

When the game is played outdoors and the ball is bounced or batted the small ball 31 is usually employed and the object of the game is to bounce or bat the main ball so as to cause its sections to fly apart and permit the inner ball 31 to roll therefrom.

I claim:

1. A ball including a pair of sections, means for hinging the sections together, a spring for causing the sections to fly apart, a catch for holding the sections together, and means for releasing the catch including a plunger projecting exteriorly of the ball.

2. A ball including a pair of hinged sections, a spring for causing the sections to fly apart, a catch for holding the sections together, and means for releasing the catch including a plurality of plungers projecting beyond the periphery of the ball and operatively connected with the catch.

3. A ball including a pair of sections, means for hinging the sections together, interfitting shoulders for maintaining the sections in proper relation when closed, a catch for holding the sections together, and means for releasing the catch including a plunger operable from the exterior.

4. A ball including a pair of hinged sections, a spring for causing the sections to fly apart, a resilient catch having one end secured to one of the sections and having a tooth, a tooth on the other section engageable with the tooth on the catch, and means for releasing the catch including a plunger operable from the exterior.

5. A ball including a pair of hinged sections, means for causing the sections to fly apart, a catch for holding the sections together, and means for releasing the catch including a plurality of plungers projecting beyond the periphery of the ball and operatively connected to the catch, certain of said plungers being connected to the catch by means of release arms.

6. A ball including a plurality of sections, means for hinging the sections together, means for causing the sections to fly apart, catch means for holding the sections together, and means projecting beyond the periphery of the ball and operable upon impact for releasing the catch means.

WALTER H. WINKS.